



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Susan Houston, Executive Director, Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development
(781) 489-6262 x 11, shouston@massecon.com

**MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (MAED)
ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR ITS
FIFTH ANNUAL TEAM MASSACHUSETTS ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARDS**

WELLESLEY, Massachusetts, September 9, 2008 – The Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development today announced its *Fifth Annual Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Award* finalists in preparation for its November 25 awards luncheon, which will take place in Boston. In the only awards event of its kind in Massachusetts, companies from across the Commonwealth will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Massachusetts economy.

Finalist companies will have the opportunity to meet with the judges for the awards event during a late afternoon reception at the UMass Club in Boston. This reception will enable representatives from the companies to present the attributes of their company to the judges. The President of the University of Massachusetts, Jack Wilson; and the Undersecretary of Business Development, Greg Bialecki, will be among the guests as will be key legislators who are instrumental in economic development. The winners from each region will be announced in October.

Economic Impact Award finalist companies were selected based on their job growth, facility expansion, and investment since January 1, 2007, as well as other factors including community involvement.

“Each year we’re impressed with the variety and vitality of businesses relocating and expanding in Massachusetts,” said Jerry Sargent, Executive Vice President of Citizens Bank and MAED Chair. “The companies nominated this year have great stories to tell.”

“Sometimes good economic news is lost,” Susan Houston, Executive Director, Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development concurred. “The *Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards* is the perfect vehicle to make sure that people know that the Commonwealth is a great location to grow their business.”

The companies chosen as finalists come from each region of the state and are listed below.

WEST

Performance Food Group
Liberty Mutual
Hardigg Industries
Solutia
Court Square Group

CENTRAL

Lonza Hopkinton
Evergreen Solar
Sepracor
Nypro
Fabrigo

GREATER BOSTON

Shire Pharmaceuticals
CSN Stores
Brigham and Women’s
Hospital
Microsoft
Acceleron Pharma
JP Morgan Chase

SOUTHEAST

Five Star Surgical
Symmetry Medical
Strictly-by-the-Book
Organogenesis
Electrochem Commercial
Power

NORTHEAST

Aspect Software
Spire Corporation
William A. Berry
Ophir Optics

The list of finalist companies is notable in that it includes a broad range of sizes and industries – from financial services, software, consumer products, and manufacturing to biotechnology and pharmaceuticals.

The regional judging team leaders for the Economic Impact Awards included Robert Culver, President and CEO of MassDevelopment; Michael DiGiano, Executive Vice President of NAI Hunneman Commercial; Rick Murphy, Senior Vice President, National Grid; Kevin Quinn, President of Dacon Corporation; and Girard Sargent, Executive Vice President of Citizens Bank.

For more information about the event or to register, go to www.massecon.com, e-mail rsvp@massecon.com or call at 781-489-6262 ext 14.

The Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development (MAED) is a private, non-profit partnership of business, industry leaders, and government dedicated to fostering economic growth in the Commonwealth.

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