



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**MASSACHUSETTS ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR ITS
FIFTH ANNUAL TEAM MASSACHUSETTS ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARDS**

WELLESLEY, Massachusetts, October 6, 2008 – The Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development today announced its *Fifth Annual Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Award* winners in preparation for its November 25 awards luncheon, which will take place at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. 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. Over 450 are expected to attend.

The winning companies were selected after a reception with their competitors and judges at an afternoon reception at the UMass club hosted by the President of the University of Massachusetts, Jack Wilson. The reception enabled representatives from the companies to present their attributes in the categories of job growth, facility expansion, investment, and community involvement since January 1, 2007.

“With over 100 colleges and universities in the state, Massachusetts is an international hub of higher education institutions, which provide a well-trained workforce and generate new technologies and spin-off companies through academic research and development,” said Jack M. Wilson, President of the University of Massachusetts. “These honorees are strengthening the foundation of the state’s economy.”

Jerry Sargent, Executive Vice President from Citizens Bank and Alliance Chair concurred. “The *Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards* allows us to honor companies not only at a state level, but those that are making waves worldwide. The winning companies all strengthen the bedrock of the Commonwealth as a prominent location for businesses’ expansion.”

The Alliance will also confer its *State Champion Award* on The Kraft Group in recognition of its massive expansion at Patriot Place in Foxborough and its consistent commitment to the state throughout a variety of industries, not the least of which are Rand-Whitney, International Forest Products, and of course the New England Patriots and New England Revolution. The event will also recognize Massport with the *Statewide Strategic Asset Award* for the critical role its transportation infrastructure plays in keeping Massachusetts competitive.

“Massachusetts has a great story to tell in the form of public and private collaborations that have led to economic development and job creation throughout the state,” noted Greg Bialecki Undersecretary of Business Development whose address wrapped up the evening.

“These award winners, and our partnership with the Alliance, demonstrate how diverse the Commonwealth’s strengths truly are.”

Susan Houston, Executive Director of the Alliance, observed that the process of selecting the winners was extremely difficult. “The judges did not arrive at their decision lightly; there are so many good stories from a variety of industries. All the companies nominated enhance the Massachusetts economy, and we’re proud to be able to recognize them.”

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

| Region | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Central Massachusetts | Evergreen Solar <i>Devens</i> | Sepracor <i>Marlborough</i> | Lonza Hopkinton <i>Hopkinton</i> |
| Greater Boston Area | Shire Pharmaceuticals <i>Lexington</i> | Brigham & Women’s Hospital <i>Boston</i> | CSN Stores <i>Boston</i> |
| Northeastern Massachusetts | Aspect Software <i>Chelmsford</i> | Spire Corporation <i>Bedford</i> | Ophir Optics <i>North Andover</i> |
| Southeastern Massachusetts | Electrochem <i>Raynham</i> | Organogenesis <i>Canton</i> | Five Star Surgical <i>New Bedford</i> |
| Western Massachusetts | Solutia <i>Springfield</i> | Liberty Mutual <i>Springfield</i> | Court Square Group <i>Springfield</i> |

In addition, three *Companies to Watch* will be honored: Excelsior Printing *North Adams*, FloDesign *Wilbraham*, and GreatPoint Energy *Somerset*.

The list of winning 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; Rick Murphy, Senior Vice President, National Grid; Kevin Quinn, President of Dacon Corporation; and Jerry 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 is a private, non-profit partnership of business, industry leaders, and government dedicated to fostering economic growth in the Commonwealth.

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