

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact: Susan Houston, Executive Director, MassEcon**  
**(781) 489-6262 x 11**  
**shouston@massecon.com**

**MASSECON ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR ITS EIGHTH ANNUAL  
TEAM MASSACHUSETTS ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARDS**

***Finalists selected based on job growth, facility expansion, and community involvement***

**BOSTON, Massachusetts - September 15, 2011** – Twenty-three finalists from across the state gathered at the UMass Club last night to compete for the Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards, awarded annually by MassEcon (the Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development). These finalists, representing companies from Boston to the Berkshires, gave one-minute elevator pitches describing their growth in the Bay State over the past eighteen months. Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, Greg Bialecki, was the featured guest at the event. The awards celebrate companies that have made an outstanding contribution to the Massachusetts economy. The winners from each region will be announced in October and recognized at an awards luncheon on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in Boston.

The finalist companies range in size and are from many different industries, including software, manufacturing, life sciences, and clean energy. MassEcon selected the finalists based on their job growth, facility expansion, and investment since January 1, 2010, as well as other criteria including community involvement.

Finalists compete on a regional basis, defined as West, Central, Southeast, Northeast, and Greater Boston. Out of the finalists, a gold, silver, and bronze winner will be selected from each region.

“We’ve been seeing stories and headlines that indicate that New England is outpacing the rest of the country in economic recovery,” said Bob Brustlin, Chairman of MassEcon. “It’s great to recognize the progress that Massachusetts is making by honoring the businesses that are contributing to this growth.”

“As we climb out of the recession, it is important to recognize that there are businesses across the state that are expanding,” Susan Houston, Executive Director, MassEcon added. “With these awards, we see that growth in the Commonwealth is not limited to one region or one industry. These finalists come from every region of the state and represent a diverse group of industries.”

The companies chosen as finalists for the 8th ANNUAL TEAM MASSACHUSETTS ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARDS are listed below.

**WEST:**

**Coca-Cola** – Northampton  
**Smith & Wesson** – Springfield  
**General Dynamics AIS** – Pittsfield  
**Iredale Mineral Cosmetics** - Great Barrington

**SOUTHEAST:**

**AirXchange** – Rockland  
**Horizon Beverage** – Norton  
**Reinhart Food Service** - New Bedford

**NORTHEAST:**

**Eliassen Group** – Wakefield  
**Ferro-Ceramic Grinding** – Wilmington  
**GT Advanced Technologies** – Salem  
**Solectria Renewables** – Lawrence  
**Kiva Systems** - North Reading  
**Jessica's Brick Oven** - North Andover

**CENTRAL:**

**A123 Systems** – Westborough  
**Acacia Communications** – Maynard  
**BJ's Wholesale Club HQ** – Westborough  
**Biomedical Research Models** – Worcester  
**Simonds International** - Fitchburg

**GREATER BOSTON:**

**BioScale** - Lexington  
**Communispace** – Boston  
**Dassault Systemes** – Waltham  
**HubSpot** – Cambridge  
**Porter & Chester** - Canton and Woburn

**About MassEcon**

MassEcon, founded in 1993, is a non-profit partnership of the private and public sectors dedicated to marketing Massachusetts as a competitive location for business. Its services include the state's only *Site Finder Service*, which helps expanding and relocating companies find appropriate sites throughout the Commonwealth; the *Research & Information Service*, which provides companies with the information they need to evaluate the Commonwealth as a location to grow; and the *Massachusetts Ambassadors*, a network of civic and corporate leaders who help market Massachusetts as a place to do business. Through these channels, and in conjunction with state, regional, and local partners, MassEcon has helped facilitate the location of over 250 companies including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Straumann USA, Merck, and American Superconductor.

###