

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

**TAFT HONORS 26 OHIO COMPANIES FOR EXPORTING EXCELLENCE
Orrville-based The Will-Burt Company Named 2004 Exporter of the Year**

COLUMBUS (June 24, 2004) – Governor Bob Taft today presented 25 Ohio companies and organizations with the Governor’s Excellence in Exporting Award (“E” Award) and one Ohio business – The Will-Burt Company based in Orrville, Wayne County – with the 2004 Exporter of the Year Award.

“Ohio is an export leader in the highly competitive global economy,” Taft said. “The winners of this year’s ‘E’ Awards are setting a record pace by aggressively selling their products throughout the world.”

Established in 1985, the Governor’s Excellence in Exporting Award recognizes Ohio companies that have increased sales volume through exports, have increased Ohio-based employment as a direct result of export activity, or have developed and implemented a strategy to expand their international sales. Since 1991, more than 300 companies have received the award.

The Exporter of the Year Award, created in 1994, annually honors one Ohio company that has distinguished itself in the international marketplace and exemplifies the state’s commitment to international trade. The Will-Burt Company Mast Division, a world-leading manufacturer and exporter of pneumatic and mechanical telescoping masts, light towers and accessories, was honored with this year’s award for its outstanding export sales, history of exporting and commitment to sharing its expertise with other Ohio companies.

According to State Development Director Bruce Johnson, Ohio is the sixth largest exporting state in the United States and the only state whose exports have increased every year since 1998. Ohio companies exported \$29.8 billion in goods in 2003, an increase of 7.4 percent from 2002 figures and the most significant percentage increase among the largest exporting states. More than one in five Ohio manufacturing jobs are exported-related and 1,000 foreign business establishments in the state employ over 242,000 Ohioans. “From our 10 foreign trade offices to our missions abroad, the Ohio Department of Development remains an excellent resource for Ohio companies wanting to compete in the global marketplace,” said Johnson.

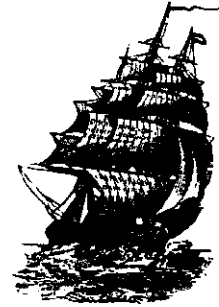
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Editor’s Note: A list of the 2004 Excellence in Exporting Award winners is attached.

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2004 Governor's Excellence in Exporting Award Winners

<u>Company</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>
The Will-Burt Company (Exporter of the Year)	Orrville	Wayne
Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc.	Athens	Athens
Global Learning Community – Ohio University	Athens	Athens
The Gorman-Rupp Company	Mansfield	Richland
Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP	Cincinnati	Hamilton
Hartzell Propeller Inc.	Piqua	Miami
Impact Products, LLC	Toledo	Lucas
Kadant Black Clawson Inc.	Mason	Warren
Kinetico Incorporated	Newbury	Geauga
The Lincoln Electric Company	Cleveland	Cuyahoga
Magneco/Metrel, Inc.	Negley	Columbiana
Meridian Bioscience, Inc.	Cincinnati	Hamilton
Miami Valley International Trade Association	Dayton	Montgomery
Norse Dairy Systems, LLC	Columbus	Franklin
Ohio Corn Marketing Program	Marion	Marion
Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission	Waverly	Pike
Power & Signal Group	Cleveland	Cuyahoga
Redex Industries, Inc.	Salem	Columbiana
Rotex, Inc.	Cincinnati	Hamilton
SAS Automation Ltd.	Xenia	Greene
seepex, Inc.	Enon	Clark
Transtar Industries Inc.	Walton Hills	Cuyahoga
Tronair, Inc.	Holland	Lucas
Vita-Mix Corporation	Cleveland	Cuyahoga
Wayne-Dalton Corporation	Mt. Hope	Holmes
Wren Industries Inc.	Tipp City	Miami



Association of Ohio Commodores

The Association of Ohio Commodores is a group of individuals recognized by the Governor of Ohio with the state's most distinguished honor, *The Executive Order of the Ohio Commodore*.

The Association was founded by Governor James A. Rhodes in 1966 at Put-in-Bay, in celebration of Ohio's first foreign trade mission the year before. Governor Rhodes named the Executive Order and Association for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, whose stunning victory on Lake Erie in 1813 marked a turning point in the history of Ohio and our nation.

Each year outstanding Ohioans are recognized for their business accomplishments, acumen and leadership with this prestigious honor. The Association currently has more than 275 active members from around the state who participate in trade missions, host foreign dignitaries and delegations, support the governor's initiatives, and serve as the governor's honor guard at official events.

The Commodores also hold an annual fundraiser in support of the Governor's "Excellence in Exporting" Awards, recognizing Ohio companies that increase jobs and boost local economies through export.

More than a dozen charter members still belong to the Association and many Ohio families have had multiple generations achieve membership. It is an esteemed organization and one of Ohio's proudest traditions.

E
AWARDS
2004



GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENCE IN
EXPORTING
A W A R D S

AWARDS
2004



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL TRADE DIVISION

Magneco/Metrel, Inc.

www.magneco-metrel.com



Magneco/Metrel's executive offices and research lab are in Addison, Illinois, and the company manufactures products in Addison, Gary, Indiana, and Negley, Ohio. The company makes kiln furniture and other high-fired shapes from mixes that are made in the Negley, Ohio plant. Magneco/Metrel also has a facility in Shildon, County Durham, England, which serves as a sales office, warehouse and manufacturing facility that makes specialty shapes from mixes manufactured in the company's Negley plant. The company manufactures all of its monolithic refractory products for sale all over the world in Negley.

In the past three years, the company's export sales have grown dramatically as the company has opened new territories in Europe and Latin America. In 2003, Magneco/Metrel entered entirely new markets in Asia and South Africa. In December 2003, the company booked its first order for the People's Republic of China shipment beginning in the first quarter in 2004.

The company is proud that in a time when heavy manufacturing has been in decline in the United States, it has been able to develop an export strategy to keep its plant busy and growing.

Meridian Bioscience, Inc.

www.meridianbioscience.com



Meridian is a fully integrated life science company that manufactures, markets and distributes a broad range of innovative diagnostic test kits, purified reagents and related products and offers biopharmaceutical enabling technologies. Meridian's headquarters and core clinical diagnostic business (research and development and manufacturing) are located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Miami Valley International Trade Association (MVITA)

www.mvita.org



Miami Valley International Trade Association (MVITA) is a volunteer organization promoting international trade, both exporting and importing, in the Dayton and Miami Valley area. MVITA offers programs and services designed for small, medium, and large companies. MVITA's program feature successful CEOs willing to share their trade successes, international personnel able to vocalize their visions and strategies that work, and service providers always willing to assist. MVITA is solidly positioned in the marketplace and continues to build on its quality reputation. Due to the involvement in the international community and the expertise of the board members, MVITA is able to provide a broad breadth of knowledge and assistance to their members and the local international community.