



Manufacturers Honored

Governor hails Georgia firms at 8th annual Manufacturing Appreciation Week luncheon

More than 1,000 business leaders from across the state gathered in Atlanta April 18 for the annual awards luncheon for Manufacturing Appreciation Week.

The three winners for this year's Manufacturer of the Year Award are: HL-A of Bremen, in the small category (150 or fewer employees); Sweetheart Cup Co. of Augusta, in the medium category (151-750); and Briggs & Stratton of Statesboro, in the large category (more than 750).

Gov. Roy Barnes was joined by Dr. Ken Breeden, DTAE commissioner, and R.K. Sehgal, Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism commissioner, to pay tribute to manufacturing's role in the vitality of Georgia's economy.

In his address, Gov. Barnes noted the importance of Georgia's manufacturing base. "In order for us to provide meaningful employment for our citizens," he said, "we have got to make sure our manufacturing base continues to grow."

Representatives of the three winning companies recognized the contributions of Quick Start and the technical colleges to their success. CEO John Shiely of Briggs & Stratton



Seated at the head table were, from left, Jim Reese, Randstad; Phil Jacobs, BellSouth; Gary Grant, KPMG Consulting; Gov. Roy Barnes; Jerry Silvio, Pattillo Construction; Becky Blalock, Georgia Power; and R.K. Sehgal, GDITT.



Did you know that manufacturing ...?

- Contributes \$52 billion to Georgia's economy annually.
- Employs approximately 600,000 Georgians.
- Accounts for 15 percent of the employment in Georgia.
- Is the third largest segment of Georgia's private-sector workforce.
- Boasts some 10,000 facilities across the state.

pointed to the extensive amount of pre- and post-employment training at his firm, conducted by Quick Start in partnership with Ogeechee Technical College. Brett McGuire, Sweetheart Cup's plant manager, called Quick Start the "most pro-business state incentive in the country."

Manufacturing Appreciation Week and the gala luncheon were sponsored by BellSouth, Georgia Power, Pattillo Construction, KPMG Consulting, Randstad North America and the Georgia Tech Economic Development Institute.

KPMG Consulting

GEORGIA POWER
A SOUTHERN COMPANY



Small-Employer Category: HL-A, Bremen



From left: Gov. Barnes; Mike Burnett, plant manager; Tetsuro Komaki, president; and Toshitaka Kimura, chief engineer

HL-A has been instrumental in re-establishing a manufacturing base in Haralson County.

The Japan-based company, which employs more than 100 people in Bremen and surrounding counties, will have invested \$30 million in its facility by 2004. HL-A first came to Georgia in 1998 and has expanded three times in four years.

Initially, the automotive component supplier made zinc diecasts for door locks on Honda cars. It now also produces latches, mirrors and handles, and has a painting facility.

In his acceptance remarks, plant manager Mike Burnett highlighted Quick Start's role in making HL-A's expansion in Georgia a success.

Medium-Employer Category: Sweetheart Cup Co., Augusta



Gov. Barnes and Plant Manager Brett McGuire

Sweetheart Cup Co., which makes disposable polystyrene drinking cups and lids, has been in operation at the same location in downtown Augusta for 54 years. The company employs 242 Georgians and has an annual

payroll of more than \$8 million.

"I can't begin to measure the impact that the Department of Technical and Adult Education has had on the Sweetheart Cup Augusta plant," said plant manager Brett McGuire in his acceptance comments. Thirty-six percent of the employees at Sweetheart are graduates of Augusta Technical College.

In 2001, the company won the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce awards for workforce education, workforce retention and site beautification.

Large-Employer Category: Briggs & Stratton, Statesboro



Gov. Barnes and President/CEO John Shiely

With 850 employees, the Briggs & Stratton facility in Statesboro has a payroll of more than \$22 million. The plant has been in operation just over six years and had annual revenue of \$230 million in 2001.

President/CEO John Shiely underscored DTAE's role in Briggs & Stratton's success story.

"Education is the key to creating value," he said, "and the efforts of the Quick Start people have allowed us to develop and train employees with skills necessary to be a world-class manufacturer of gasoline engines."

Briggs & Stratton manufactures gasoline engines used in the lawn-and-garden industry. Diecasting, machining, punch press and assembly take place at the Statesboro facility, which is considered a flagship plant for the Wisconsin-based company. 