



For Immediate Release
June 4, 2008

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Kenway Corporation Recognized As Manufacturer of the Year By Maine MEP

*~Award Presented to Fiberglass Manufacturing Company on June 4th
at the Augusta-based Facility~*

AUGUSTA, Maine - The Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) is pleased to announce Kenway Corporation, a nationally known fabricator of fiberglass products, is the recipient of this year's Maine MEP Manufacturer of the Year award.

The award will be presented at a ceremony at Kenway Corporation's facility in Augusta on Wednesday, June 4th at 10 a.m. The award is presented every year to a company that has achieved world-class manufacturing status and has implemented best manufacturing practices required to advance in the marketplace.

"We are recognizing Kenway Corporation because they are an excellent example of a Maine MEP client continually reinventing themselves. They have worked with the Maine MEP for six years, improving workforce skills, productivity and competitiveness, and have the built skills needed to grow and sustain business," said Rod Rodrigue, president of the Maine MEP.

Established in 1947 as Kenway Boats, Kenway Corporation has evolved into a fiberglass manufacturing company for the marine, pulp and paper, and power industries.

In 1991, Kenway moved their manufacturing operations to Augusta from Palermo, increasing their manufacturing facility to more than 10,000 square feet, which created new jobs and positioned themselves more centrally to the customers. This year, they are once again expanding, this time by 20,000 feet. For the past several years, the company has worked with the Maine MEP on projects such as Lean manufacturing, Technical Skills Training, Team-Involved Problem Solving, and Strategic and Supply Chain Assessment, which has allowed them to expand and invest in their facilities and staff.

"We are pleased when a company such as Kenway grows and prospers, further positioning itself to be a steady leader in the manufacturing sector," said John Richardson, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. "MEP has been instrumental in helping Kenway and other manufacturing companies in Maine improve workforce skills and competitiveness, while strengthening the economy."

"Through the work of the Maine MEP, Kenway has created several new jobs in Augusta in the past few years. Company president Ken Priest has really demonstrated ways to

advance Maine's economy by not only providing those additional jobs, but by also retaining more than \$700,000 in company sales and investing thousands of dollars in workforce training, going above and beyond the typical on-the-job trainings," said Senate Majority Leader Libby Mitchell.

Representative Kim Silsby (D - Augusta), member of the Business, Research and Economic Development Committee (BRED) agrees. "Kenway has a strong reputation for excellence in our community, and it's easy to see why. For more than 60 years, the company has been able to put the customer first, all while maintaining a commitment to their valuable employees. They are a true model for success in their industry."

Kenway distinguishes themselves by offering custom work and custom service. Currently, the company is strategically positioned to serve their customers by offering complete engineering and design capabilities so that it may bring both standard items as well as "one-off" special molded fabrications from the design phase, through the manufacturing phase, the final on-site installation at the customer's facility.

"Kenway Corporation is quite the success story," remarks Representative William Browne (R - Vassalboro). "They have stuck to their original principles of offering superior service, innovative solutions and exceptional products, and that has allowed them to advance and improve throughout the years."

"By constantly finding new ways to offer their skills and capabilities to customers, Kenway Corporation continuously strives to make Maine a better place to work," adds Representative Patsy Crockett (D - Augusta). "I'd like to extend my congratulations to Kenway Corporation and all who work to keep their operations steadily evolving."

About Maine MEP

Maine MEP is an affiliate of the NIST under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The national MEP is a network of manufacturing extension centers that provide business and technical assistance to smaller manufacturers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Through MEP, manufacturers have access to more than 2000 manufacturing and business "coaches" whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits, and enhanced global competitiveness. For more information on the Maine MEP program call 1-800-637-4634 or visit www.mainemep.org.

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