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Mathews Brothers Receives Manufacturing Excellence Award

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The Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) presented Mathews Brothers, a 156-year-old window manufacturer, with the 2010 Maine MEP Manufacturing Excellence Award on Tuesday at a ceremony at the company's manufacturing facility in Belfast. The award is presented each year to a Maine company that has demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision and manufacturing excellence.

"This year's award recipient exemplifies what it takes to succeed in the face of today's global challenges," said Thaxter Trafton, commissioner of Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development, in a statement announcing the award. "In the world of cutting-edge manufacturing, these attributes are known as Next Generation Manufacturing." The Maine MEP Manufacturing Excellence Award assesses companies in six strategic areas that represent the core of Next Generation Manufacturing.

Mathews managers attended a Maine MEP program designed to train participants in ways to develop innovative products and improve profits. The workshops were offered in response to national surveys indicating that the number-one need of small- and mid-size manufacturers was for innovation and the development of new products and services that could lead to growth. The company also received a Maine MEP grant that enabled it to participate in a trade mission to Asia organized by the Maine International Trade Center.

Maine MEP is an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology 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. Through MEP, manufacturers have access to more than 2,000 manufacturing and business "coaches" whose job it 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.