Maine MEP Clients Receive 2013 Governor’s Awards for Business Excellence

Augusta, Maine: At a State House press conference, Governor Paul LePage today announced the seven recipients of the 2013 Governor’s Award for Business Excellence. The awards recognize Maine companies that demonstrate excellence in manufacturing and service performance and a commitment to customers, employers and community. Two of the manufacturers receiving 2013 awards are Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) clients; and both firms – Falcon Performance Footwear of Auburn and FHC Inc. of Bowdoin – are past recipients of the Maine MEP Manufacturer of the Year award.

“We are very pleased that two Maine MEP clients were selected for this year’s Governor’s business excellence awards,” said Bruce Pulkkinen, chairman of the Maine MEP board of directors. “Falcon Footwear and FHC exemplify the best in Maine manufacturing. Both companies have outstanding reputations for manufacturing excellence and customer service. And both have demonstrated their quest for excellence by investing in their employees and assuming leadership roles within their communities. We extend our heartiest congratulations to all of the 2013 award winners.”

Falcon Performance Footwear focuses on the design and manufacture of highly-engineered safety footwear. Maine MEP has partnered with Falcon on many projects over the past five years, including the plant design and layout of the company’s manufacturing facility in Auburn and lean manufacturing projects that have achieved high degrees of production efficiency and service quality. By pursuing product innovation and developing advanced engineered components, Falcon has become a global leader in industrial, mining and firefighter safety footwear. In addition to today’s award, Falcon received Maine MEP’s 2011 Manufacturer of the Year award.

From its manufacturing facility in Bowdoin, FHC, Inc., serves an international clientele of neurosurgeons and neuroscientists with an array of microelectrodes and special purpose clinical instruments. The company has utilized Maine MEP’s Innovation Engineering services to develop cutting-edge new products and rapidly bring them to market. FHC received Maine MEP’s award for the 2012 Manufacturer of the Year.

The Governor’s Award for Business Excellence was created in 1991 and has recognized 123 Maine companies in the 22 years since its inception.

About Maine MEP

The Maine MEP is an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The national MEP system 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 2,000 manufacturing and business “coaches” whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits and enhanced global competitiveness. For information on the Maine MEP program, please visit www.mainemep.org, or phone 1-800-MEP-4MFG.
Left to right: Muriel Mosher (Maine MEP President); Carl Spang, President, Falcon Footwear; Governor Paul LePage; Neil Hanley, Owner, Falcon Footwear; Roland Landry, Owner, Falcon Footwear; and Wayne Messer, Senior Project Manager, MEP.

Left to right: George Gervais, DECD Commissioner; Scott Humphrey, FHC VP of Finance; Keri Seitz, FHC President; Muriel Mosher, Maine MEP President; Representative Seth Berry.