

Kennebec Technologies receives Manufacturer of the Year award

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AUGUSTA, Maine — The Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership on Friday announced that Kennebec Technologies has been selected as the 2013 Manufacturer of the Year.

The company, which was founded in a garage in Augusta in 1972, has grown over the years into a precision manufacturer that performs work for the aerospace, defense, alternative energy, medical, semiconductor and telecom industries.

Kennebec Technologies should be a model for manufacturing companies in Maine that want to succeed, according to Muriel Mosher, president of the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, or Maine MEP.

“For two decades Kennebec Technologies has steadily expanded its operations by developing new products, expanding into new markets and finding ways to improve the efficiency of its production processes,” Mosher said in a statement. “This spirit of innovation, combined with a relentless focus on quality control and lean manufacturing, has led the firm to its position today as one of Maine’s premier high-tech manufacturers.”

The Manufacturer of the Year award is given each year to a Maine company that demonstrates the leadership, vision and manufacturing excellence that characterize next-generation manufacturers.

The Maine MEP presented the award during an event at Kennebec Technologies’ facility on Friday, which also happened to be National Manufacturing Day.

Wick Johnson, the company’s president, said the company is “honored” by the award. He credited a partnership with Maine MEP for improving the company’s productivity by 50 percent, doubling sales revenue and making it possible to invest more capital in new technologies.

“This award is recognition of the success we’ve achieved by partnering with Maine MEP and of the hard work and commitment of our employees,” he said.

Gov. Paul LePage also congratulated the company on its award.

“It is very gratifying to see a company in one of Maine’s traditional industries reach its full potential,” LePage said in a statement. “I congratulate Kennebec Technologies for its innovation and growth and for demonstrating that Maine is open for business.”

The Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership provides business and technical assistance to manufacturers in Maine. It is a program of the DECD and an affiliate of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s national manufacturing extension partnership.