

FLORIDA - ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for MANUFACTURING EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Made in Florida” Industry Tours

The “Made in Florida” Industry tours brought together more than 80 students and teachers from across the central western coast of Florida to witness modern manufacturing operations. It involved some of the most proactive companies located in Florida, and provided students a snapshot of the intricacies involved in today's manufacturing.

Conducted during April and May, 2007, the tours introduced middle and high school students to high-tech manufacturing operations. From hydraulic cartridges, to components that facilitate world class wireless communications and medical technology, the tours helped put into perspective, Florida's stake in manufacturing. It also helped shed light on manufacturers’ efforts to use technology to stay competitive in today’s global marketplace.

The schools involved were, Heron Creek Middle School, Braden River High School, Lakewood School Center for Advanced Technology, Palmetto High School and Nature Coast Technical High School. Sponsored by FLATE (Florida Advanced Technological Education Center for Manufacturing), SAMA (Sarasota and Manatee Manufacturers Association), BAMA (Bay Area Manufacturers Association), the Florida High-Tech Corridor Council, and local manufacturers, the tours highlighted the potential and need for a skilled workforce, and introduced new avenues of opportunities for the students. A lesson designed and delivered by FLATE made the tours a true learning experience. After the tours, students were directed to the

“Made in Florida” (www.madeinflorida.org) website for further exploration of careers and educational pathways in manufacturing and technology.

The companies that hosted these tours include: **PGT**, located in Venice, Florida, is a pioneer in manufacturing impact-resistant and custom-made windows and doors, and is one of the largest window and door manufacturers in the nation. **Teltronics Inc.** located in Sarasota, Florida, is a global provider of communications solutions. Its network of diversified technology provides a wide range of services. The *Digital Switching Systems* provides converged communications for businesses of all sizes and government. Its *E911 public safety sector* and *Contact Center solutions* software, enables services and support - needed for effective management of customer interactions. **Lintratec** is a global medical technology company with offices in Largo, Florida, Billerica, Massachusetts, and Utica, New York. It specializes in the development and sale of products and services that facilitate high quality care, and enhanced clinical outcomes for their patients. **Universal Microwave** is the established world leader in VCO and synthesizer technology, with corporate offices in Odessa, Florida. It specializes in the development of high performance signal sources for wireless and infrastructure applications. **Sun Hydraulics**, located in Sarasota, Florida is a leading designer and manufacturer of high performance screw-in hydraulic cartridge valves and manifolds which control force, speed and motion as integral components in fluid power systems. It is a process intensive manufacturing company that extensively employs computer numerically controlled (CNC) machinery and robotics.

FLATE (Florida - Advanced Technological Education) Center for Manufacturing Education is a National Science Foundation center, committed to ensuring that Florida manufacturing has a well prepared workforce. It advances this mission through three principal

initiatives: 1) promotion of technologically oriented manufacturing and technology careers to middle and secondary school students, 2) professional development of teachers throughout the K-16 educational system, 3) reform and realignment of the curriculum that defines Florida's academic programs related to manufacturing. Created in 2004, it is one of 33 in the United States focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education to meet the needs of American advanced-technology industries. For more information, please visit: www.fl-ate.org

SAMA (Sarasota and Manatee Manufacturers Association) was founded in 1971 to improve the manufacturing environment in Sarasota & Manatee counties. SAMA membership includes companies of all sizes and generally represents the majority of the manufacturing community in the area. All efforts of SAMA are targeted at making the Sarasota-Manatee area a superior environment for manufacturing. For more information, please visit: www.sama-fl.com

BAMA (Bay Area Manufacturers Association) established in 1961, was organized to serve the collective needs of the growing Tampa Bay manufacturing community. BAMA represents the interests of manufacturing & associate support industries of Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties. BAMA encourages development and growth of manufacturing industries through education and the exchange of information, and promotes business relationships among members. For more information, please visit: www.bama-fl.org
