

Ohio Department of Development

NEWS RELEASE

Bob Taft, Governor
Bruce Johnson, Lt. Governor

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JOHNSON ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF EXCELLENCE IN EXPORTING AWARD APPLICATIONS

COLUMBUS – Lieutenant Governor Bruce Johnson today announced the Ohio Department of Development’s International Trade Division is currently accepting nominations for the 2006 Governor’s Excellence in Exporting Awards (“E” Awards).

“Ohio companies exported more than \$31.2 billion in goods in 2004, creating profitable lines of business around the world and contributing to Ohio’s long-term prosperity,” said Johnson, who also serves as director of the Ohio Department of Development. “The Governor’s ‘E’ Awards provide the State with the opportunity to recognize the significant contributions exporters make to Ohio’s economy. ‘Ohio Means Business’ and to that end, I encourage all Ohio firms that have increased their competitiveness through exporting efforts to apply for a 2006 award so they may be recognized for their achievements.”

Each year, “E” Awards are given to companies and organizations of all sizes that have shown a strong commitment to increasing exports of Ohio goods or a heightened awareness of exporting as a vital component of the state’s economy. Since 1991, more than 300 companies have received the award. In addition, the Governor annually presents the “Exporter of the Year” award to one Ohio company that exemplifies the state’s commitment to international trade. American Augers, Inc., located in West Salem, received the 2005 Exporter of the Year Award.

A selection committee will review all completed applications. Nominees should outline how they have: demonstrated aggressive international marketing of products, including research activities; developed a network of distributors, international offices or subsidiaries; developed and marketed a new export product; achieved a breakthrough in a closed market; overcome unique exporting obstacles; and/or developed a training program for employees involved in exporting.

Nominees should also indicate how they have: participated in trade shows; traveled to target markets to conduct research and meet representatives or agents; developed foreign language promotional materials and general promotional activities; participated in volunteer programs, mentor programs, seminars and training for new-to-export companies; encouraged other Ohio companies to become involved in exporting; and/or educated employees about the importance of international trade to their jobs and the company’s overall success.

“E” Award applications can be accessed via the Internet at www.odod.state.oh.us/itd or can be obtained by calling the Ohio Department of Development’s International Trade Division at (800) 848-1300, ext. 6-5017 or (614) 466-5017. The application deadline is March 31, 2006. Governor Bob Taft will host a Statehouse luncheon to announce the 2006 “E” Award winners on June 21, 2006.

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