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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Six Florida Manufacturers Recognized with
2019 Florida Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence Awards**

ORLANDO - Six Florida companies received statewide recognition as the 2019 winners of the third annual Florida Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence Awards. The awards, recognizing high performing manufacturers in six categories, were announced and presented May 31 at the Governor's Sterling Awards Banquet in Orlando.

The Florida Sterling Council and FloridaMakes collaborated on these statewide awards. Companies were judged on leadership, strategy, customer and market focus, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, workforce and operations.

The 2019 Florida Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence winners are:

Independent Companies with up to 25 employees:

- Winner: Habilitation Center of Boca, Boca Raton, which manufactures printed circuit board assembly, cable assembly/wiring harnesses, as well as provides product testing, cell phone repair and permanent employment for disabled workers.
- Runner Up: Sarasota Medical Products, Inc., Sarasota, which manufactures ostomy accessories, ostomy pouches, laminate rolls and wound care products.

Independent companies with 26-50 employees:

- Winner: Artemis Plastics, LLC, Ocala, which offers full contract manufacturing services and injection molding including assembly and final packaging of devices.
- Runner Up: Custom Manufacturing & Engineering, Inc., Pinellas Park, which manufactures a wide range of electrical and electromechanical assemblies.

Independent companies 51-125 employees:

- Winner: PPI Technologies Group, Sarasota, which manufactures stand-up pouches, vial and tray solutions.
- Runner Up: Kira Labs, Inc., Pompano Beach, which manufactures personal care and cosmetic products.

Independent companies with more than 125 employees:

- Winner: Tampa Tank/Florida Structural Steel, Gibsonton, which manufactures and fabricates storage tanks, ASME pressure vessels, movable steel bridges, customized steel/stainless steel products, and towers.
- Runner Up (tie): Beaver Street Fisheries, Jacksonville, which manufactures fresh and frozen seafood products, meat items, protein combination meals, and condiments for retail and foodservice customers.
- Runner Up (tie): Shaw Development, LLC, Bonita Springs, which designs, develops, and manufactures customized fluid management solutions.

Corporate-backed companies with up to 200 employees:

- Winner: Collins Aerospace - EEP, Jacksonville, which designs, manufactures, services, and tests composites and urethanes for the defense and aerospace markets.
- Runner Up: Eastman Chemical - Pace Operations, Pace, which manufactures a wide range amine product used in the food, feed, and agriculture markets.

Corporate-backed companies with more than 200 employees:

- Winner: Lockheed Martin RMS Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, which manufactures manned and unmanned submersibles.
- Runner Up: PGT Innovations, Venice, which manufactures impact-resistant windows and doors.

The winners were selected from among 33 award finalists; 110 manufacturers were nominated. FloridaMakes will feature the finalists and winners in webinars, plant tours and events that share best practices to benefit Florida's manufacturing sector.

About the Governor's Sterling Award

Established in 1992, the Florida Sterling Council is a public/private not-for-profit corporation supported by the Executive Office of the Governor. The Council oversees the Governor's Sterling Award for Performance Excellence, presented annually by the Governor to high performing, role-model organizations, both private and public, who demonstrate superior management approaches and role model results. Sterling's Conference teaches participants how to elevate performance and increase productivity. More at www.floridasterling.com.

About FloridaMakes

FloridaMakes is an industry-led public-private partnership operated by participating regional manufacturing associations throughout Florida. Its mission is to improve the productivity and

technological performance of Florida manufacturers by accelerating technology adoption, talent development, and business growth, and to strengthen the state's high-wage manufacturing economy. It operates with industry, research, educational, and economic development partners, both public and private at the state and national levels, to provide services that are customized to meet the needs and opportunities of individual companies. FloridaMakes is the official representative of the MEP National Network operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the State of Florida. For more information about FloridaMakes, please visit www.floridamakes.com.

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