

For Immediate Release
August 25, 2011
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Falcon Performance Footwear Wins 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award

AUBURN, ME - Falcon Performance Footwear was awarded the 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award by the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP). The award is given each year to a Maine company that has demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision, and manufacturing excellence.

"We're deeply honored to receive the Maine MEP 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award," stated Falcon President Carl Spang. "Our company has a commitment to product innovation and is driven to produce the highest quality American-made footwear. We've succeeded with assistance from our many partners and the dedication of our 54-member workforce. I'm proud to accept this award on their behalf."

The award was presented by Senator Susan M. Collins, who is a strong supporter of the national Manufacturing Extension Partnership. "The Falcon Performance Footwear story illustrates the challenges facing manufacturers in our nation and our state. Its success demonstrates the ingenuity, energy, and determination that enable our manufacturers to meet those challenges," said Senator Collins.

Falcon has produced high-quality footwear for nearly 5 decades with its long-term success driven by innovation and utilization of Maine's economic development programs. Innovations that have propelled Falcon to success include: Manufacturing more flexible and lightweight firefighter boots, which provide unmatched protection; producing composite toe caps, which were previously only available from Chinese manufacturers; and constructing a facility designed for fast production of customized orders, which reduces inventory costs and improves throughput.

Maine MEP Chairman Bruce Pulkinen said, "Falcon Performance Footwear serves as a model for how Maine manufacturers can grow even in the toughest economic times. When Carl Spang assumed leadership of the company in 2007, he recognized that innovation and production efficiency were the keys to survival. Falcon took advantage of state resources to develop high value-added products that utilize advanced materials and meet the highest safety standards. Furthermore, by incorporating the principles of lean manufacturing into its plant layout, the firm achieved substantial cost savings and developed a production capacity with enormous flexibility and rapid ability to respond to customized orders."

About Falcon Performance Footwear

Falcon manufactures high-quality industrial footwear that provides the best comfort and protection. In 2006, Falcon designed a revolutionary boot for firefighters with Globe Firefighter Suits, and in 2009, Falcon introduced a new mining boot. Falcon's nearly 5-decade history of success has been driven by its innovative products, its efficient production, and its people. <http://www.falconpf.com/>

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