

# ***News Impacting the Manufacturing World in Washington State and Beyond.***



*Monthly Newsletter*

*Special Edition*



Each year, The Washington Manufacturing Awards recognize companies making important progress in productivity, growth and innovation. Companies are honored in seven categories: Company of the Year, Executive of the Year, Innovation of the Year, Food & Beverage Processor of the Year, Emerging Manufacturer of the Year, Building Trades Manufacturer of the Year, and Nonprofit of the Year.

Gold and silver winners were honored at the Manufacturing Awards dinner gala, which was held on April 26th at the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

Impact Washington has been a proud sponsor of this event since its inception, eight years ago. We are glad to be a part of manufacturing in the Evergreen State!

***Congratulations to all of 2017's Honorees!***

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### Large Firms

**GOLD AWARD:** [Aero Precision](#),  
Tacoma

Aero Precision's roots are deeply tied to aerospace, and our drive for clean, perfect engineering and machining stems from that. When you're building something that will fly in the air, there is no margin for error. We take that same approach in the firearms industry. Not every manufacturer will have razor thin tolerance levels. Not every manufacturer will personally oversee the development, design and machining of every part that comes off the line. We're not every manufacturer.



### Small Firms

**GOLD AWARD:** [AeroGo Inc.](#),  
Tukwilia

AeroGo manufactures innovative load moving equipment, utilizing wheels and hovercraft technology, that move heavy, awkward, or delicate loads in factories. Companies large and small find benefit from our worldwide dealer network, experienced product specialists, and skilled engineers.



### Midsized Firms

**GOLD AWARD:** [AccraFab Inc.](#),  
Liberty Lake

**Since 1979, AccraFab has supplied customers in many industries worldwide with top quality custom fabricated parts and assemblies.** Our facility features extensive equipment and capabilities to perform most types of sheet metal fabrication, machining, welding, finishing and assembly. As an ISO9001-2008 and AS9100 certified resource, AccraFab is customer service driven and committed to delivering quality products and services on time with the lowest possible "total cost of ownership". Combining our creative design abilities, innovative fabrication techniques and a high level of precision, enables us to solve complex problems and bring powerful solutions to our clients.

*Our Mission: We partner with our customers to provide innovative precision manufacturing and supply chain management solutions with award-winning quality, delivery and value.*



They will work with you to find a load moving solution that is safe, efficient and cost-effective, as your valuable loads are carried through the manufacturing process. From our Standard Product offerings to our highly customized Engineered Systems, AeroGo has an innovative solution for your load moving need.



Small Firms

**SILVER AWARD:** [Aeroforge](#),  
**Puyallup**

Aeroforge (formerly Air Spares) is a licensed manufacturer and distributor of tooling and ground support equipment in support of Boeing and Airbus fleets. The company specializes in the machining, fabrication and assembly of complex assemblies in accordance with customer proprietary data. A top exporter in the State of Washington, Aeroforge supports airlines, maintenance facilities and Allied military customers in over 100 countries.



**Emerging Manufacturer**

**GOLD AWARD:** [Key Compounding](#)

**Midsized Firms**

**SILVER AWARD:** [Vaupell](#), **Seattle**

Vaupell designs, engineers, and produces custom, high performance engineered plastic and composite components and assemblies for demanding applications. **We are the global market leader in plastics components and assemblies for aircraft interiors** while also serving the broader [aerospace](#), [defense](#), [medical](#), and [commercial](#) markets.

Vaupell provides engineered solutions to top tier OEM's, market-leading growth companies, and promising start-ups. Collaboration with our customers in all phases of a the product life cycle results in the highest value solutions that reduce time to market, manage risk and control costs.



CREATING JOBS THAT CHANGE LIVES

**Nonprofit Manufacturer of the Year**

**GOLD AWARD:** [Skills Inc.](#), **Auburn**

Skills Inc. is a self-supporting, nonprofit social enterprise that employs people of ALL ABILITIES in aerospace manufacturing, aerospace finishing, technical services and business solutions. Our fully integrated, inclusive workforce is comprised of individuals with and without disabilities working

## Pharmacy, Federal Way

No one person is the same, so why should their healthcare be?

It's time to take charge of your health.

Key Compounding has been empowering patients to be proactive healthcare consumers for over 50 years.

As the nationally licensed, first Washington State PCAB accredited (2008), full-service compounding pharmacy, we are dedicated to patient safety and delivering the highest quality products.

We are the premiere compounding pharmacy in the Northwest, and our state-of-the-art facility is designed for both sterile and non-sterile compounding.



**Manufacturing Executive of the Year**

**Kent Wall: President and CEO,**

side-by-side throughout all four lines of business.

Skills Inc. has ONE mission, to create and maintain a stable, rewarding place of work, where persons with disabilities can contribute their skills. Our success comes as a result of a balanced connection between our TWO bottom lines, financial and social. We accomplish our mission in THREE ways, by employing people with disabilities, vocational programs, and by serving as a role model and resource to the community.

## **FEED COMMODITIES LLC**

### **Sustainability**

**GOLD AWARD:** [Feed Commodities, Tacoma](#)

Feed Commodities is the premier recycler of bakery by-products in the Pacific Northwest, ranging in operations from Salem, Oregon north to the Canadian border.

The focus of our operations is the acquisition of raw bakery by-products from our bakery customers, and everything we do supports this effort. From the custom designing of our waste systems to meet our customers' specific needs, the efficient hauling and processing of their by-products, to finding the highest valued markets for our final feeds, our focus is and always will be on our customers.



## Portco Packaging, Woodland

For more than 80 years, and three generations, the Wall family has been at the helm of Portco Packaging. The Portco Way is a relentless pursuit of a 'better way'. Today, our flexible packaging keeps our customers competitive globally. We're proud of our commitment to the environment, a passion we share with many of our clients. To us, that environment also extends indoors. Trust, transparency, humor and collaboration characterize our relationships—many stretching back for decades



### **Building Products**

#### **SILVER AWARD: [EZ-Access](#), Algona**

Driven by our commitment to enrich lives by providing access to life beyond barriers, EZ- ACCESS®, a division of Homecare Products Inc., was founded in 1984 by Glenda Everard and her daughter, Deanne Sandvold. In 1988, son Don Everard joined the family business, bringing with him marketing expertise. This trio was the driving force behind the expansion of the ramp market, having pioneered the industry through the marketing and manufacturing of EZ-ACCESS portable wheelchair ramps.

EZ-ACCESS operates out of two locations. Headquarters and West Coast manufacturing are located in Algona, Washington, 15 miles south



#### **SILVER AWARD: [Composite Recycling Technology Center](#), Port Angeles**

##### Vision

By 2022, divert 2M lbs. of carbon fiber composites from landfill and achieve a 1M lbs. per year recycle run rate

##### Mission

To inspire and grow the global composite recycling community through innovation in technology and manufacturing that transforms carbon fiber scrap into products that positively impact people's lives and our environment

##### Strategy

**Research** – Expand the usage of recycled carbon fiber by delivering R&D in targeted areas

**Render** – Incorporate recycled carbon fiber into products to help reduce weight, increase strength, improve aesthetics or promote sustainability

**Repurpose** – Offer recycled carbon fiber in customized formats for other companies to utilize in their products



### **Building Products**

#### **GOLD AWARD**

#### **[Canyon Creek Cabinet Company](#), Monroe**

Canyon Creek manufactures affordable, quality cabinets at our

of Seattle and East Coast manufacturing is located in Morganfield, Kentucky, where the company reinforces its family-based philosophy with customers, employees and community alike. The two manufacturing facilities enable faster and less expensive deliveries across the nation to all their customers.



#### **Innovation**

**GOLD AWARD:** [Gear Aid](#),  
**Bellingham**

Our mission is to get more people outside—using their hands in the process. Whether you're camping, fishing...or hunting, you encounter times where you need to fix your gear. When your gear shows wear, it shows love. We teach people how to keep their well loved and expensive gear in like new condition, thereby increasing performance, saving money, and consuming less in the process. Our products maximize the use of every piece of gear they buy. And if you're using one of our lights,

facility in Monroe, WA. We recognize the responsibility that comes with being a large manufacturer, and we are committed to being a good corporate citizen, to the benefit of our employees, owners, and the community at large.



Food Processor of the Year

**GOLD AWARD:** [Yakima Chief - Hopunion](#), Yakima

In 2006, Yakima Chief, Inc. and Hopunion LLC combined their respective craft beer business segments in an agreement which allowed Hopunion to focus solely on craft brewing customers, and Yakima Chief on larger global markets. This initial market segmentation created a culture where Hopunion was influenced by independent artisan brewers, while Yakima Chief was impacted by process and the ability to meet customer requirements for compliance with supplier audits and quality criteria.

As craft breweries became larger and more unified in their focus on quality, sustainable practices and consistency of product, demand for both companies began to overlap. The ownership of Hopunion and Yakima Chief commissioned a study in 2013 to research the feasibility of a full business merger and whether or not the resulting new company would be better equipped to serve

camouflage wrap, or tube of glue, you'll get the best performance on the market. That is one mission we're proud to share with the next generation.

We started fixing gear in 1981 when SCUBA divers realized Aquaseal was stronger than their wetsuits. Shortly after, we expanded into anti-fog, sealants, repair tapes, water repellents, cleaners, camouflage, and more. Now, we're known as the go-to care and repair company for the Outdoor, Sporting Goods, and SCUBA industries. With more than 100 products that share the same quality, innovation, and utility as Aquaseal, outdoor enthusiasts rely on us for products that last. Because we believe gear should last.

Whether your adventure is climbing a mountain, diving the deep blue sea, fishing in the rain, or camping in your backyard, we make tools for your adventure.



#### Innovation

**SILVER AWARD:** [Sterlitech](#), Kent

Sterlitech Corporation's portfolio covers an array of unparalleled filtration products designed to push the boundaries of:

- Execution of routine methods
- Membrane development
- Application innovation

the entire brewing community.

Inspired by the shared vision of connecting family hop farms with the world's finest brewers, Yakima Chief, Inc. and Hopunion LLC decided to fully combine operations on July 31, 2014. The resulting new company, Yakima Chief - Hopunion, or YCH HOPS for short, a 100% grower-owned supplier of hops and hop products, is who we are today.



#### Food Processor of the Year

**SILVER AWARD:** [No-Li Brewhouse](#), Spokane

With a focus on local ingredients, innovation, quality and creativity, No-Li has been proudly brewing award-winning beer in the heart of the Inland Northwest since 2012. At No-Li Brewhouse, we strive to always be better. And it is our passion, experiences, and support from those in the Spokane community that continually improve who we are. We take great pride in our product, our staff, and our city. Spokane Style.

- Small-scale Processing

Our aim is to equip scientists, entrepreneurs, and visionaries with the means to transform ideas into reality.

Sterlitech is an industry leader focused in unique micro and sub-micron filtration products. We strive to support our customers by keeping them at the forefront of their industries, tailoring solutions to individualized needs, responding to the demands of emerging technologies and aligning with their visions including:

- Membrane filters to improve workers' environments
- Systems to recover and reuse high value waste streams
- Disease detection devices and diagnostic tools
- Desalination and water resource conservation

Located in Kent, Washington USA, Sterlitech was founded in 2001. Its founders have over 90 years of combined experience in membrane and microfiltration technology. The company has developed a strong global brand recognition serving a vast number of end markets in over 125 countries.



### ***Learn About Our Made in Washington Program***

*Manufacturing is a vital arm of Washington's economy, and it's our mission to support and energize our local industry. The Made in Washington program is a free service to the community that certifies, promotes, and connects Washington State manufacturers. Check out our directory of Made in Washington businesses, or get certified and listed today! The program is at no cost to join and includes such benefits as listing in our on-line guide and use of the Made in Washington logo on your website. For more information or to sign up, visit our [Made in Washington page](#)*





**Impact Washington hosts events on many topics, including LEAN, ISO, FSMA, and many more. Please check our [Events](#) page for our latest offerings and to register. We'd look forward to seeing you!**



*Submissions are welcomed!  
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