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## Need for Manufacturing Solutions Generating International Interest In Canadian Lean Manufacturing Conference

*Over 500 Manufacturing Leaders and Practitioners will attend the June 12-15th Kitchener Event from 8 Canadian Provinces, The United States, England, Wales, Ireland, Australia, and China*

**Waterloo Region, May 15, 2006** – Business leaders and manufacturing practitioners from eight Canadian Provinces are rapidly filling the On-site Tours, Workshops, Best Practice Sessions and Special Events. “A sellout is expected”, indicates Conference Co-Chair, David Hogg, “What is impressive, is the level and quality of the attendees who are coming to find solutions – and that is what this conference is all about”, added Hogg.

Attending the conference, and participating in the program, are 10 Sr. UK Corporate leaders – each of whom is enrolled in the world’s only executive Lean Master Degree Program at the University of Cardiff in Wales. The team is led by John Bicheno, Program Director, and prolific author of many publications in support of Lean Manufacturing. “We are impressed and see high value here - Our corporate students are looking forward to learning from the best practices – and seeing first-hand Canadian Lean applications during our tours to Southwestern Ontario companies.”

Also attending are Manufacturing Leaders from 12 individual UK companies who are in Canada as part of an international exchange initiative led by Jon Fenwick, Executive Director, of the Innovation Insights Program sponsored by Canada’s National Research Council - IRAP and operated by Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters. “Exchange visits such as these are eye-openers for the companies that are visited - as well as for

the visitors,” stated Fenwick, and added, “It often takes ‘outside eyes’ to enable you to see the opportunities around you every day.”

A four-person plenary forum entitled, “Trends in Lean deployment in Europe – practical insights from UK practitioners.” will bring the two groups together led by moderator, Tony Laraia, author of the best selling Kaizen Blitz, and Plant Manager for the Connecticut-based Wiremold Legrand operations.

Other international participation is coming from Australian Manufacturing Consortium leaders and practitioners who will be joining with colleagues from US Consortiums in Jacksonville and Portland together with practitioners from Canadian Manufacturing consortiums attending from Newfoundland, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Both Co-Chairs Brian Bush, and David Hogg are excited about the international attention. “A major thread at this conference,” asserts Hogg, “is recognizing that to succeed means being able to lay your hands on the right knowledge when you need it – and fast. To drive this home – every attendee will be able to add international links to their own Personal Knowledge Supply Chains.” Bush was quick to reiterate - “This is critical, because the real competitive edge is turning knowledge into results ahead of your competitor,” he emphasized.

Like all organizers for this conference, the Co-Chairs are volunteers who are concerned about manufacturing’s future and potential job losses if Best Practices – like those at the Conference - are ignored. Bush is President of his own company BBMS Inc. and Hogg is President of the High Performance Manufacturing Consortium – a cluster of 14 companies that he points out fully understand that “none of them can live long enough to make all the mistakes themselves – hence the need to leverage each other’s learning.”

The 2006 Canadian Lean Conference is led by the Association for Manufacturing Excellence’s (AME) Canadian Region and will take place from June 12 until June 15 at the Delta Kitchener Hotel in downtown Kitchener. The conference will feature eight leading keynote speakers, 16 tours of area manufacturing plants showcasing the latest

best practices, 15 tool-based workshops, and 36 “best practice” presentations from business leaders and practitioners from across Canada, US and the UK.

**Keynotes:** Among the keynoters at the conference will be Dr. James P. Womack, Founder of the Lean Enterprise Institute in Massachusetts and world-renowned author; Dr. Jayson Myers, Senior Vice President & Chief Economist of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters; Art Church, CEO of Mancor Industries based in Oakville, Ontario; Anthony Laraia, Plant Manager of Wiremold Legrand in Connecticut and co-author of The Kaizen Blitz; Dan Joseph, Managing Director of ESS China based in Xuzhou, China; Norman Bodek, President of PCS Press in Washington state, and author of several books on Lean manufacturing; Dr. Dan Shunk, Professor at Arizona State University; and Terry Evanshen, former CFL football player, now a motivational speaker and the inspiration for the movie “The Man Who Lost Himself”.

**Plant Tours:** Sixteen Southern Ontario businesses will be featured during this year’s conference. Companies such as Toyota in Cambridge, Canadian Blue Bird Coach in Brantford; Eaton Electrical in Milton; Rockwell Automation in Cambridge; Bombardier Aerospace in Malton; and CFN Precision in Concord, will open their doors to show attendees how they have solved real world problems and will do extensive Q&A during the tours.

**Workshops:** Fifteen practical workshops will be offered, presented by some of the world’s best providers giving attendees the know-how and tools to equip their businesses with leading management practices. Topics including as Introduction to Lean, Mixed Model Value Streams, How to Prevent Lean Implementation Failure, and Achieving Operational Excellence will be discussed.

**Best Practice Presentations:** For leaders at all levels there will be four value streams aligning various presentations in the program: “People” focusing on results through leadership, teams, internal/external customer success; “Processes” focusing on continuously improving, capable processes & value streams that are sustainable; Technology focusing on applying “Lean Thinking” & technology to lever and accelerate the elimination of waste everywhere; and “The High Performance Organization” detailing Novel leadership & enterprise-wide approaches to winning while making customers

successful. Each stream will feature best practices presentations from leading companies like General Electric, Aerco International, Canadian Blue Bird Coach, Technicolor, Red River Army Depot, and Eaton Electrical

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**About the Association for Manufacturing Excellence [www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org)**

AME is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to “Inspire a commitment to global enterprise excellence through shared learning” through the exchange of productivity methods and their successful application in the pursuit of excellence. Founded in 1985, the group has extended its focus beyond manufacturing to include all industries that can benefit from advanced management techniques. AME is practitioner-based, and its events and workshops focus on hands-on learning.

**About the High Performance Manufacturing Consortium [www.hpmconsortium.com](http://www.hpmconsortium.com)**

HPM Consortium is a fifteen year old non-profit “leveraged learning network” and exists to assist each of its members to individually, and collectively, become successful global competitors. Members are located in Southwestern Ontario.

**CME is Canada’s National Manufacturing Association [www.cme-mec.ca](http://www.cme-mec.ca)**

Operating for more than 130 years CME is the voice of Canadian business. They keep members on the competitive edge of world-class manufacturing and trade. With strong divisions in every province, CME’s national presence champions business issues in Canada.

**About the Society of Manufacturing Engineers [www.sme.org](http://www.sme.org)**

The Dearborn-based Society of Manufacturing Engineers brings people and information together to advance manufacturing knowledge. SME is internationally recognized by manufacturing practitioners, companies, and organizations as their source for

information, education, and networking. SME provides member services, publications, events, professional development resources plus chapter and technical community networking activities to keep professionals up to date on trends and technologies.

**About CTT Inc.** [www.techtriangle.com](http://www.techtriangle.com)

CTT Inc is the economic development partnership marketing Waterloo Region and the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo to the world. Its mandate is to attract and retain the most innovative talent and businesses to the Waterloo Region.