

NEWS RELEASE:

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CURTIS PACKAGING WINS PLATINUM
2007 CONNECTICUT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD'S
INNOVATION PRIZE

Curtis Packaging Corporation of Sandy Hook, CT is the 2007 Platinum winner of the 12-year old **Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA) Partnership's Innovation Prize** which received 102 applications this year.

The Connecticut Quality Improvement Award Partnership is celebrating its 20th Anniversary as America's first state level award to use the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award for Performance Excellence criteria and the only state award among 37 other state quality awards that sponsors an annual Innovation Prize.

The entry level CQIA Innovation Prize is a one-page application with three criteria: 1) Describe the problem solved or opportunity leveraged of your innovation; 2) Describe your innovation in detail and tell why it is innovative. Innovation is defined by CQIA Innovation Prize as a new service, process or product that is new to Connecticut in the last five years, and 3) using numbers, show how this innovation has benefited your organization.

In contrast to the CQIA's longer Breakthrough (20-page) and Leadership (50-page) Quality Awards which qualify discrete business entities, the Innovation Prize is available to all organizations with a facility located in Connecticut. These include manufacturers, service companies, educational facilities, hospitals and health care institutions, as well as other not-for-profit organizations.

Curtis Package Corporation rose to the top among this year's 102 CQIA Innovation Prize applications that were ranked by 15 Baldrige trained CQIA examiners aided by a software program that accommodates examiners who also may be applicants, explains Sheila Carmine, Founder and Executive Director of CQIA.

The 162-year old independent family owned manufacturer of luxury folding cartons developed CurtCHROME™, an environmentally friendly new product that is both biodegradable and 100% recyclable. Taking their own proprietary, metallic inks, Curtis is able to apply the metallic ink in specific spots on a sheet with 1/64 degree accuracy while foil laminates only can be applied overall. Since January 2005, their sales in just CurtCHROME increased to over \$5 million.

“Once again in 2007, Connecticut organizations from small businesses to state agencies, municipal governments, hospitals, universities and on to our giant corporations are proving they are nimble and driven to succeed through results directed innovations,” says Carmine.

All 90 winning organizations knew they must have numerical results for their innovation before they applied. Twelve applicants forgot or were disqualified.

Nineteen applications received gold CQIA Innovation Prize designations. Very short summaries follow. Copies of all winning applications will be published in CQIA’s best practices book, 2007 CQIA Innovation Prize Winning Applications available to all people registered and attending the Connecticut Quality Improvement Award’s 20th Anniversary Conference on Quality and Innovation taking place October 19, 2007 at Water’s Edge Resort in Westbrook, CT. View website, www.ctqualityaward.org for ongoing details about the Conference.

Very short summaries – 2007 Gold CQIA Innovation Prize Recipients:

Carrier Corporation, Farmington – Carrier’s Infinity™ Air Purifier’s patented technology treats 100 percent of the conditioned air to not only capture, but KILL airborne germs, mold spores, bacteria, viruses, and allergens. Carrier has sold more than 13,000 units reaching over \$5 million in sales.

Cartus, Danbury – A containerized shipping program that expedited service for small shipments that previously had to be combined with other larger van shipments. Cartus began using UPS to transport the small shipment via freight to the destination warehouse and loaded the household items onto a van line truck for delivery and unpacking by trained van line agents. Claims from loss showed an improvement factor of over 66%. While the industry standard is 1 in every 4 shipments experience a claim, Cartus’ new rate is only 1 in every 12 shipments.

City of Hartford, CT: Wireless Hartford is a public wireless high-speed Internet Access network that allows residents of Downtown and Blue Hills neighborhoods to access the web using personal computers. In addition, the

city has arranged for these households to purchase refurbished personal computers with wireless capability at a cost of \$150. As of April 1, 2007, 238 household in the two target neighborhoods purchased low cost computers and had family members go through training.

CTTRANSIT and UTC Power, Hartford – The partnership combined a hybrid drive bus with a fuel cell resulting in an operating range similar to a standard diesel bus and zero tailpipe emissions. The new hybrid hydrogen fuel cell bus is getting twice the fuel economy of a standard bus by going 7.0 miles per kilogram of Hydrogen.

Fairfield University – As part of the library’s entry into the University’s iTunes U initiative, two librarians at Fairfield University created entertaining and informative podcasts utilizing dialogue and story-telling to introduce students to research databases. In February 2007, when the podcasts were posted on the library’s web site, there were 55 page hits. In March, the page hits increased to 858.

Inframat® Corporation, Farmington – Inframat has disrupted the status quo in the thermal spray industry by inventing a process with a liquid feedstock or thermal spray coating that can substitute for the traditional powder feedstock. With Inframat’s new proprietary process called “Solution Plasma Spray” or “SPS”, the feedstock material for the thermal spray gun is a liquid rather than a traditional powder. Inframat has completed two License deals.

MinuteClinic, Rocky Hill – MinuteClinic health care centers in select CVS/pharmacy stores are staffed by board-certified nurse practitioners who trained to diagnose, treat and write prescriptions for common family illnesses to patients ages 18 months and older. MinuteClinic also offers common vaccinations. Since its inception in Connecticut in September 2006, MinuteClinic has recorded nearly one million patient visits nationwide, with more than 99 percent patient satisfaction.

New England Fertility Institute, Stamford – New England Fertility Institute is the first program in the State of Connecticut to achieve pregnancy from a frozen human egg, which was thawed and fertilized. Since April 2006, New England Fertility Institute has one successful pregnancy, in which the patient is currently (June 2007) seven months pregnant.

OPS, Shelton: Oil Purification Systems (OPS) Together with a by-pass filter and patented OPS-1™ Evaporator, so that both solid and liquid contaminants are continually removed from the engine oil, OPS-1™ allows the engine to run with clean oil 100% of the time. OPS sold 2,000 OPS-1 units in 2006

PCI Medical, Deep River – By using two pumps, PCI’s EEP250 Endo Flush can automatically flush all three channels of an endoscope simultaneously in 90 seconds. This is in contrast to carpal tunnel inducing process of manual syringing that requires a total of 27 steps for each cleaning. Launched in

January 2007, by the end of March orders resulted in a 20% increase in gross sales and the addition of two employees.

Pfizer Global Research & Development, Groton – Chantix™ (-Champix® outside the US) is a new compound to aid in smoking cessation treatment by attempting to break the “cycle of addiction”. Combining synthetic variations of cytisine with clues from classical morphine chemistry heralded the emergence of a new class of compound. In May 2006, Chantix™ was approved by the FDA. In the six months since its introduction as a medicine in August 2006, over 1,000,000 US smokers have taken Chantix to quit smoking

Pitney Bowes, Shelton – The Pitney Bowes e-Certified Return Receipt product was developed to make sending Certified/Return Receipt mail easier, less error prone and less costly. The manual forms needed to create a standard Certified/Return Receipt mail piece were replaced by a computer application that collects the pertinent information and encodes it into a bar-coded label which is applied to the mail piece along with a USPS eCertified sticker. The mailing meter scans the bar-code and uses the information to automatically apply the proper postage and initiate tracking by uploading the information to the USPS via the internet. Customers can track the delivery status of their Certified mail pieces via the PB My Account website. As part of the package of services the eCertified Return Receipt product has generated over \$15 million in sales.

Pratt & Whitney, a United Technologies Company – East Hartford, P & W designed and developed the SHOCKSystem™, an online detonation cleaning product that allows for the continuous removal of accumulated fly-ash deposits while the boiler in coal-fire powered generating stations remains in operation. First publicly presented in December 2005, two major utility companies have purchased economizer cleaning systems.

Rayvel Holographic Products and Services, Montville – Rayvel designed a system to fully characterize the optical performance, including efficiency and physical quality of gratings up to 500mm square in a fully automated manner. Gratings, devices that break light into its color components (like a rainbow), are typically small, less than 25mm square. Rayvel received a \$500K+ order to build a 500mm square automated system for Agilent Technologies in their new nanotechnology clean room.

Terra Technology, Norwalk: Terra’s Inventory Optimization solution, introduced in May 2006, is the only inventory optimization solution that uses actual forecast and actual lead time to calculate inventory requirements. Between 2005 and 2006 Terra’s revenue increased 300% and the number of Terra employees almost doubled, from 12 to 22.

Topex, Inc., Danbury – Topex developed the Superficial Radiotherapy System (SRT 100) dedicated skin cancer treatment for basal and squamous cell carcinomas providing a high cure rate and low recurrence. Topex received

FDA market clearance during January 2007. From January to April 2007, they received five orders from cancer center treatment institutions.

United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol, Groton – In 2006 the International Ice Patrol (IIP) and Canadian Ice Service (CIS) developed and operationally tested a shared database of iceberg population near the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and along the Labrador coast. Prior to 2006, the CIS and IIP divided their iceberg data entry responsibilities at 52° N. This was accomplished using a locally written automatic synchronization routine that immediately updates the shared database to track the iceberg population and create needed products. Annual time savings for IIP exceed 300 hours which equates to an annual savings value of close to \$19,000 at IIP alone.

Yale University, New Haven: In an effort to reduce harmful emissions, Yale students worked collaboratively with Yale research scientists and Yale Transit to develop a bio-fuel made from recycled cooking oil from Yale's Dining Halls. Utilizing Ultra-Low Sulfur Biodiesel fuel in their fleet, Yale has reduced sulfur emissions from 300/ppm to 12/ppm.

Yardney Technical Products, Pawcatuck – Using state of the art Lithium battery technology rather than the old and heavier 96-pound NiCad approach, in 2006 Yardney designed a new battery for the US Air Force that provides the same electrical capacity, yet weighs only 38 pounds, enabling greater payload and longer endurance in front line surveillance and support missions. Yardney received approximately \$1,000,000 in new sales in the first year.

LIST OF SILVER RECIPIENTS OF THE 2007 CONNECTICUT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AWARD

Allegiant Systems – Wilton
Alvin & Company – Bloomfield
AMBROSONICS, LLC - Windsor
Automatic Rolls of New England - Dayville

Baillie Hall & Hershman P.C. – Cheshire
Bartron Medical Imaging – New Haven
Basement Systems (4 applications) – Seymour
BioPur Inc. – Bethlehem
Bridgeport Hospital – Bridgeport
Business and Legal Reports, Inc. – Old Saybrook

Cartus (14 applications) – Danbury
COCC (2 applications) – Avon
Conair Corporation (5 applications) - Stamford
Connecticut Department of Labor – Wethersfield

Connecticut Invention Convention, Inc. – Farmington

Danbury Health Systems, Inc. (2 applications) – Danbury

Eastern Connecticut State University – Willimantic

GE Capital Solutions – Danbury

George Comfort & Sons, Inc. – Stamford

GoECart.com – Bridgeport

Greenwich Hospital – Greenwich

Hartford Hospital – Hartford

Health Net of the Northeast - Shelton

Higher One, Inc. – New Haven

Janus Associates – Stamford

Kais Custom Builders – Norwalk

L-1 Identity Solutions, Inc – Stamford

New Standard Institute – Milford

Pel Associates - Groton

Pexaon Technology Inc. - Guilford

Pfizer Global Research & Development - Groton

Qualidigm – Middletown

Questcon Technologies, a division of Howard Systems International -
Stamford

Quinnipiac University – Hamden

RightDot – Westport

Sacred Heart University - Fairfield

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center - Hartford

Saint Mary's Hospital – Waterbury

shiftcontrol media – Greenwich

Specialty Materials and Services - Farmington

Stamford Hospital - Stamford

The Hartford Financial Service Group – Hartford

Triple Point Technology - Westport

TRUMPF, Inc - Farmington

Yale-New Haven Hospital (3) – New Haven

Yarde Metals – Southington

