

Contact:

Mike McDonald, Prime Advantage
(312) 601-3110
mmcDonald@primeadvantage.com

Contact:

Peter Wiltjer, BWMG, Inc.
(630) 701-3363
petewiltjer@bwmginc.com

Prime Advantage Announces Award Winners at Fall Conference
Staples and Fastenal receive Supplier of the Year Awards

CHICAGO, November 12, 2007 – Prime Advantage, the leading buying consortium for industrial manufacturers, announced the winners of its annual member and supplier awards at its Fall Conference 2007: Improving Bottom Line Profitability in a Global Economy. Dewey Stevens of Wisconsin-based Curt G. Joa, Inc., a leading manufacturer of equipment for disposable products, was honored with the *President's Award*, while office supply distributor Staples Inc. was awarded *Supplier of the Year for Services and Supplies* and industrial distributor Fastenal Company was honored with the *Supplier of the Year Award for Raw Materials & Components*.

Stevens, materials manager of Curt G. Joa, Inc., received the *President's Award* due to his exceptional commitment to Prime Advantage and its group members. The criteria for the *President's Award* are based on outstanding stewardship as a Prime Advantage member, excellent thought leadership and innovative ideas that contribute to group growth. Louise O'Sullivan, president and founder of Prime Advantage, chose Stevens from a list of nominated candidates for the award.

"Ever since Curt G. Joa joined Prime Advantage, Dewey Stevens has freely and enthusiastically given his time and talents to our Membership Committee and Supplier Selection Committee," said O'Sullivan. "His ideas frequently challenge us to find new ways to better serve manufacturers."

"Joining Prime Advantage has been like adding a staff member to our supply management team," said Stevens. "Its qualified supplier network has opened our company up to additional resources for products, plus developed relationships that have brought us new technological developments, and allowed us to reduce our vendor base. Most importantly, it has improved our supply network by helping us build trust and confidence through the process of helping one another."

The *Supplier of the Year* awards are split into two categories – *Raw Materials & Components* and *Services & Supplies*. These awards are voted on by Prime Advantage member companies. Through two rounds of voting, members decide which supplier has provided the highest performance and quality of goods or services throughout the year in each category.

"Staples is thrilled to accept a *Supplier of the Year* award from Prime Advantage," said Sartoph, a senior account manager at Staples who accepted the award. "At Staples, we are committed to developing business relationships with American manufacturers. Through Prime Advantage, we have been able to form these relationships."

“Fastenal is extremely honored to be named *Supplier of the Year for Raw Materials & Components*,” said Mike Sieracki, national accounts manager. “At Fastenal, we believe that partnership is a group effort to accomplish a common goal – to guarantee quality supplies and services. The members and suppliers of Prime Advantage understand what it takes to achieve that goal.”

Other distinguished awards were presented to Grainger Industrial Supply, Endries International, Lydall, Inc., Macsteel USA and O’Neal Steel, Inc. among others for their contributions and performance in 2007.

About Prime Advantage

Founded in 1997, Prime Advantage is a buying consortium for industrial manufacturers with more than 400 members, 70 associate members, and more than 110 endorsed suppliers. For more information on Prime Advantage, visit the website at www.primeadvantage.com.

###

Attention Editors: Photos of the award winners are available upon request.