

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Massachusetts Alliance for International Business
Honors Commonwealth Companies' International Trade Leadership
2008 award-winners include Hardigg Industries of South Deerfield**

Boston, Mass. - The Massachusetts Alliance for International Business (MAIB), an affiliate of Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), announced today its 2008 International Trade Achievement Award honorees. The awards, in their 13th year, recognize Massachusetts firms, institutions, public agencies or individuals who have demonstrated creativity and leadership in their international trade-related activities - fueling their success as well as contributing to the statewide economy.

"Massachusetts companies have increased exports significantly in recent years, reaching more diverse markets with products and services that represent an impressive range of industries," commented Martin Walter, Chairman of the Board for MAIB. "This year's award-winners are truly global thinkers and have demonstrated their commitment to increasing their international business with a variety of approaches - initiating a new export management system (Aspect Medical Systems), opening a new European facility to speed distribution (**Hardigg Industries**), and formulating a new overseas partnership to expand their manufacturing capabilities (Fabrico). There is much to be learned from these companies' success."

MAIB honored the following companies at the Associated Industries of Massachusetts' (AIM) annual meeting on Friday, May 9.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD: HARDIGG INDUSTRIES, South Deerfield

Hardigg Industries manufactures rotationally and injection-molded rugged containers for transporting sensitive equipment. With over 500 employees in South Deerfield, Hardigg the company has been exporting for nearly 40 years. Hardigg's export customers are in the aerospace, defense and industrial sectors, and NATO members are major clients. The company has set up distribution and sales facilities in France, the UK and Canada and developed a proprietary system to save on international shipping costs. Hardigg sells its products in 74 countries, and exporting is one of its top five core strategies. Hardigg's international revenue grew more than 50% from 2006 to 2007.

Since 1996, more than 50 Massachusetts companies, ranging from firms that are household names such as Raytheon and State Street, to smaller firms including Health Enterprises of North Attleboro, Heinrich Ceramic Decal of Worcester, and BTU International of Billerica, have been recognized by the MAIB International Trade Achievement awards. In addition, nonprofit organizations such as the University of Massachusetts-Boston and the Massachusetts Export Center have also been recognized for their contributions.