



## NEWS RELEASE

### MAINE DISTRICT OFFICE

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#### **WAHLCOMETROFLEX NAMED MAINE 2007 SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER OF THE YEAR BY THE SBA**

Augusta, Me -- Wahlco*Metroflex*, a global supplier of engineered products for isolating and controlling gas flows in industrial applications, has been named Maine's 2007 Small Business Exporter of the Year, by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Headquartered in Lewiston, the company has a reputation of a worldwide leader in the design, manufacture, installation and service of dampers, joints, and bypass diverters, used in power plants, refineries, pulp and paper mills and chemical plants around the world.

This thirty-five year old company was purchased by its present management team, John Powell, President/CEO, John Bader, CFO, Steven Boulet, Director of Administration, Michael Brousseau, Contract and Service Manager, Scott Hall, Product Manager and Roger Poulin, Director of Operations in 2001.

"Wahlco*Metroflex* and its management team are certainly deserving of this award," said Charles Summers, New England Regional Administrator for the SBA. "I take pride in knowing that the SBA in partnership with Androscoggin Bank was able to provide access to growth capital," he added. "Wahlco*Metroflex* recently landed a \$7.6 million multi-year contract that would have been impossible to secure without the SBA line-of-credit financing," said John Bader, Chief Financial Officer.

With the support of the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG), Coastal Enterprises, Inc., (CEI) and the Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council (LAEGC), this six-member management team was able to purchase this company. The company currently employs a total of eighty-eight technically-experienced personnel, including applications engineers, procurement specialists, designers, welding technicians, planners, quality assurance inspectors, field service engineers, and administrative staff.

Exporting approximately 25% of sales, Wahlco*Metroflex* owns and operates a 50,000+ square foot manufacturing facility in the Lewiston Industrial Park and has registered sales agents located around the world marketing their products.

“It would be difficult to find a better corporate citizen than *WahlcoMetroflex*,” said Congressman Michael Michaud, who nominated the business for the award. “As a company, they and their employees are responsible members of the community who dedicate both time and money to the greater Lewiston-Auburn area. The lives of many local citizens are much better off as a result of their efforts,” he added.

*WahlcoMetroflex* will be honored at the SBA Celebration dinner in May.