



For Immediate Release

October 4, 2006

British Columbia's Top Exporters Recognized

Vancouver, B.C. – The value of B.C.'s export economy was recognized today with the announcement of the 24 finalists for the 2006 BC Export Awards. These finalists will celebrate at the 2006 BC Export Awards Gala which will be held on Friday, November 10, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

For 24 years, the BC Export Awards have acknowledged the unique approaches and contributions of British Columbia export companies across a variety of sectors and all regions of the province. The awards are open to all B.C. companies that have been exporting a product or service for two or more years.

"These B.C. businesses are a testament to the quality of products and services our exporters bring to the rest of the world," said Colin Hansen, Minister of Economic Development. "Their successes bring new wealth and employment to our province, while encouraging other British Columbians to enter exporting and generate new and exciting business opportunities internationally."

From this field, winners will be selected from the eight business categories with one company named as Exporter of the Year. This year, B.C.'s oldest award ceremony will present an additional two categories, recognizing achievements in both sustainability and leadership.

"The BC Export Awards have a strong history acknowledging the major leaders in B.C.'s export industry sectors and celebrating their innovative vision and entrepreneurial spirit," said Werner Knittel, Vice President, B.C. Division of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters.

This year's top 24 finalists are:

New Exporter

Blossom Winery Ltd., Richmond, B.C. www.blossomwinery.com

Faronics Corporation, Vancouver, B.C. www.faronics.com

Western Canadian Coal Corp., Vancouver, B.C. www.westerncoal.com

Advancing Technologies

Ascalade Communications Inc., Richmond, B.C. www.ascalade.com

Carmanah Technologies Inc., Victoria, B.C. www.carmanah.com

MDA (MacDonald, Detwiler and Associates Ltd.), Richmond, B.C. www.mdacorporation.com

Consumer Products

Natural Glacial Waters Inc., Fanny Bay, B.C. www.naturalglacialwaters.com

Robeez Footwear Ltd., Burnaby, B.C. www.robееz.com

Stork Craft Manufacturing Inc., Richmond, B.C. www.storkcraft.com

Manufacturing Products

Britco Structures Ltd., Langley, B.C. www.britco.com

Clayburn Industries Ltd., Abbotsford, B.C. www.clayburngroup.com

Valid Manufacturing Ltd., Salmon Arm, B.C. www.validmanufacturing.com

New Media & Entertainment

Next Level Games, Vancouver, B.C. www.nextlevelgames.com

Rainmaker Limited Partnership, Vancouver, B.C. www.rainmaker.com

Trafford Publishing, Victoria, B.C. www.trafford.com

Primary Products & Resources

Catalyst Paper Corporation, Vancouver, B.C. www.catalystpaper.com

Fraser Valley Packers Inc., Abbotsford, B.C. www.fraservalleypackers.com

Interex Forest Products Ltd., Vancouver, B.C. www.interexfp.com

Professional & Services

Acroheliopro Global Services Inc., Richmond, B.C. www.acroheliopro.com

Build Direct, Vancouver, B.C. www.builddirect.com

Robert Allan Ltd., Vancouver, B.C. www.ral.bc.ca

Sustainability

Canadian Autoparts Toyota Inc., Delta B.C.

lululemon athletica inc., Vancouver, B.C. www.lululemon.com

South Alder Greenhouses Ltd., Delta, B.C.

Leadership

Helmut & Hugo Eppich, Richmond, B.C. www.ebco.com

About the BC Export Awards

The 2006 BC Export Awards are co-hosted by Canadian Manufactures & Exporters and the Ministry of Economic Development. Presented annually, the Export Awards are open to all B.C. registered companies that have exported a product or service for two or more years.

Sponsors of this year's awards include RBC Financial Group, Alcan Inc., Western Economic Diversification Canada, Export Development Canada, Air Canada Cargo, The Eyes, Vancouver Port Authority, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Business Development Bank of Canada, KPMG LLP, Fireworks Marketing Group, Greer Shipping, International Financial Centre, Terminal Systems Inc, Alexander Holburn Beaudin & Lang, Canada Export Centre, BC Business Magazine, Hyatt Regency Vancouver and Optimum Public Relations.

For more information visit www.bcexportawards.com

-30-

Media Information:

Dana Sissons

Optimum Public Relations

604-647-2985

Dana.sissons@cossette.com

Donna Serviss

BC Export Awards

604-637-0016

bcexportawards@cme-mec.ca