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For immediate release

EJ Ajax & Sons Named 2011 Minnesota Manufacturer of the Year for sharing it's best practices in education, safety and lean manufacturing.

Fridley, MN—EJ Ajax and Sons, a progressive metal-stamping company in Fridley, MN, has been selected Manufacturer of the Year 2011 by the Manufacturers Alliance association of Minnesota. The award recognizes manufacturers who “exhibit openness in sharing their experiences and information to strengthen fellow manufacturers,” according to Art Sneen, President of the Manufacturer’s Alliance.

“We are honored to be recognized for sharing our experience in creating a safe, lean and profitable manufacturing company,” said Vice-President Erick Ajax. “The decision to commit ourselves to a safety culture has truly transformed our company. We discovered that investing in the safety, training and professionalism of our workers has improved their productivity. That enabled us to invest more in their training and compensation, which led them to still more productivity and professionalism. Instead of a ‘race to the bottom,’ our company and customers have been rewarded by steady improvements in both the top and bottom line.”

A third-generation, privately owned company, EJ Ajax has not had a lost-time incident since 1991—more than 2 million work hours ago. The company has won the Governor’s Award of Honor, sponsored by Minnesota Safety Council, 18 times since 1992.

The activities for which EJ Ajax was recognized by the Manufacturer’s Alliance included hosting 13 programs on “Building a Safe and Lean Culture in the Workplace” for companies from Minnesota and as far away as Portland, OR, as well as the Minnesota Air National Guard and the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District. Each 90-minute program included a plant tour and peer-to-peer best practices benchmarking mentoring session.

The Manufacturer of the Year awards will be presented on Thursday, April 14, 2011 in the great room of Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, MN at 7:00 a.m. For more information on the Manufacturer’s Alliance, visit their website: www.mfrall.com

For more information on EJ Ajax, visit: www.ejax.com