

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**MASSECON ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR ITS TWELFTH ANNUAL
TEAM MASSACHUSETTS ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARDS**

Finalists selected based on job growth, investment, and facility expansion

WATERTOWN, Massachusetts – August 18, 2015 –

Twenty-one companies from across the state have been selected as finalists for the *2015 Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards*, awarded annually by MassEcon. These finalists, representing companies from Boston to the Berkshires, will present one-minute elevator pitches describing their growth in the Bay State to a panel of judges and business leaders mid-September at Nutter McLennen & Fish LLP in Boston. Assistant Secretary for Innovation, Technology & Entrepreneurship at the Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development, Katie Stebbins, will be the featured guest at the event.

The awards celebrate companies that have made an outstanding contribution to the Massachusetts economy. The winners from each of the five regions will be announced in October and recognized at an awards luncheon on November 24th in Boston.

The finalist companies range in size and are drawn from different industries including, manufacturing, life sciences, hospitality, technology, and food and beverage. MassEcon selected the finalists based on their job growth, facility expansion, and investment since January 1, 2014, as well as other criteria including community involvement. Together this year's finalists have added over 1,700 jobs to the Commonwealth, invested over \$400 million, and expanded their facilities by nearly 2 million square feet since January 2014.

Finalists compete on a regional basis, defined as West, Central, Southeast, Northeast, and Greater Boston. From the pool of finalists, a gold, silver, and bronze winner will be selected from each region.

"We are delighted to recognize the businesses in Massachusetts that contribute so much to our state's success, said Susan Houston, Executive Director of MassEcon. "The diverse set of industries and regions represented by this impressive group of companies demonstrates the overall strength of our Commonwealth."

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The companies chosen as finalists for the 12th ANNUAL TEAM MASSACHUSETTS ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARDS are listed below.

WEST:

Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing - Lee
Kennametal - Greenfield
Mohawk Fine Papers - South Hadley

SOUTHEAST:

Joseph Abboud Manufacturing - New Bedford
LaFrance Hospitality Company- Wareham
South Shore Millwork, Inc. - Norton

NORTHEAST:

Aspen Technology - Bedford
Bake'n Joy Foods - Ayer
Energi - Peabody
Jabra - Lowell
Southwick - Haverhill

CENTRAL:

GE Healthcare - Marlborough
Great Wolf Lodge - Fitchburg
Jack's Abby - Framingham
SanDisk - Marlborough
SimpliVity - Westborough

GREATER BOSTON:

Baxalta - Cambridge
Carbonite - Boston
CarGurus - Cambridge
LogMeIn - Boston
TripAdvisor - Needham

Citizens Bank is the Presenting Sponsor of the Twelfth Annual Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards.

About MassEcon

MassEcon, founded in 1993, is a non-profit, non-partisan entity that serves as the state's private sector partner in promoting Massachusetts as the premier choice for business growth. Its services include the state's only *Site Selection Service*, which helps expanding and relocating companies find a home in the Commonwealth; the *Research & Information Service*, which provides companies with the information they need to evaluate the Commonwealth as a location to grow; and the *Massachusetts Ambassadors*, a network of civic and corporate leaders who help market Massachusetts as a place to do business. www.massecon.com

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