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NEXT GENERATION MANUFACTURING EVENT CREATES LIVELY FORUM FOR
GEORGIA'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR

A first-of-its-kind event brings together Georgia's manufacturers to promote innovation

ATLANTA (September 8, 2011) – The first annual Next Generation Manufacturing event, taking place on October 18, 2011, will bring together Georgia's manufacturers, local and national manufacturing resources, and industry leading speakers to promote growth and innovation in manufacturing.

According to a recent Georgia Tech report "Innovation in Manufacturing: Needs, Practices, and Performance in Georgia 2010-2012," manufacturers who compete based on innovation are 1.6 times more likely than manufacturers competing based on low price to have added capacity or new business in the last two years.

Richard Kopelman, Partner at Habif, Arogeti & Wynne and the visionary behind Next Generation Manufacturing, says: "The purpose of this event is to showcase the vibrancy of manufacturing in Georgia and help manufacturers grow using innovation. Bringing these industry leaders together at one event will educate and encourage Georgia manufacturing companies to utilize the tools existing here locally, which will lead to more growth and innovation."

Vance Bell, Chairman and CEO of Shaw Industries, will be speaking at the Next Generation Manufacturing event. Bell explains how these various manufacturing companies, resources, and leaders can work together to promote growth. "Shaw has prioritized innovation, sustainability and enterprise excellence. These three strands are woven through everything we do. Success in any one of these areas, not to mention our growth overall, would simply not be possible without the others," Bell says. "We look forward to sharing our pursuit of innovation at the Next Generation Manufacturing event and to learning more about how others are leveraging Georgia's diverse natural and human resources."

On October 18, 2011, the Georgia Institute of Technology will open its doors for the Next Generation Manufacturing event. Event speakers include:

- Lockheed Martin's Michael Joyce, Senior VP of Operations and Programs
- TOTO USA's Bill Strang, Senior VP of Operations
- Shaw Industries' Vance Bell, CEO
- KIA Motors Manufacturing's Randy Jackson, VP of Human Resources and Administration

Georgia Tech also will provide a rare opportunity to tour three of its premier research centers: the Manufacturing Research Center (MaRC), the Institute of Paper Science and Technology (IPST), and the Food Processing Technology Division Center. Tours will be guided by research center faculty and graduate students involved in innovation projects currently under development.

Registration is \$99 and open to manufacturing executives and senior management or directors of manufacturing companies. To register, visit the event website: www.nextgenerationmfg.org

The Platinum sponsors of the event are Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, IBIS, and Paul Hastings. The Gold sponsor of the event is The McCart Group. Silver sponsors include the Centers for Innovation for Manufacturing, Definity Partners, HPWP Consulting, and PNC Bank.

Additional supporters of the event include: Georgia Association of Manufacturers, Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Quick Start, Technical College System of Georgia, U.S. Department of Commerce – U.S. Export Assistance Center, and What's Up Interactive.

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