

Governor Bob Riley Presents Excellence in Exporting Awards

MONTGOMERY - Governor Bob Riley Wednesday recognized eight Alabama companies for excellence in exporting. Governor Riley has put a major emphasis on promoting export growth during his time in office. In mid-2004, he launched "Export Alabama," a statewide effort partnering the Alabama Development Office, the Export Alabama Trade Alliance and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to promote the growth of exported goods and services from Alabama companies. "One reason Alabama's economy has experienced strong growth is because of exports," said Governor Riley. "It opens new markets for our companies and creates jobs. I am pleased to be able to recognize these companies that are contributing so much to Alabama."

Governor Riley announced last week that the value of exports from Alabama grew by 19 percent in 2005 surpassing the national growth rate of 10.6 percent. The total value of manufactured goods shipped from Alabama companies to 181 countries during 2005 totaled \$10.8 billion, up from \$9.1 billion in 2004 and \$8.3 billion in 2003. He praised the Alabama Development Office for taking the lead in promoting Alabama companies. "Trade is a very important part of our state's economy. We will continue trying to open new markets for the companies in Alabama to capture our share of the nation's export business," said Neal Wade, Director of the Alabama Development Office. "The significant increase in the value of exports from Alabama companies shows we are moving in the right direction."

The recipients of this year's Governor's Trade Excellence Awards are:

Altec Worldwide, LLC (Birmingham)

BioHorizons (Birmingham)

Masland Carpets, a member of the Dixie Group (Saraland, Atmore, Roanoke)

Navigator Development Group Inc. (Enterprise)

SirsiDynix (Huntsville)

Northern Gulf Trading Group, Inc. (Mobile)

PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. PELA (Tuscaloosa)

The Letco Companies (Decatur)

