

June 3, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Paul Borek, Executive Director

RE: IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC. Poised for Growth: Leading U.S. Electrical and Hand Tool Manufacturer Nurtures Innovation

Sycamore, IL- During the next 12 months, IDEAL INDUSTRIES, INC. will roll-out new technologies developed over the past three years leading to expansion of operations on its campus in the Sycamore Prairie Business Park.

IDEAL CEO/Chairman Jim James made these comments at a “Say Yes to Manufacturing” business roundtable luncheon hosted by the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation on Thursday, May 29 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture.

James’ remarks reinforced the importance of manufacturing to the U.S. economy and DeKalb County. “Manufacturing accounts for 17 million jobs, pays wages that are 25% higher than averages and contributes 9% of the U.S. GDP,” noted James.

On-shoring production back to the U.S. is a real trend. “I think what companies are starting to realize is, chasing the low wage is not the best strategy,” James said. He stated that 90% of IDEAL products are now made in the United States. The other 10% is produced overseas for foreign markets.

In DeKalb County, the manufacturing sector is the largest private for-profit employer, the largest source of jobs that pay above average wages, and the largest driver of GDP in the county, according to a report prepared by the Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies in December, 2010.

The privately held company’s family-oriented work environment was revealed in candid videos detailing commitment to family ownership, stewardship and long-term thinking. After recently taking over for retired long-time Chairman David Juday, James assured attendees of the company’s commitment to the principals of Juday’s grandfather, founder J. Walter Becker. The company continues to strive for “ideal relationships” with customers, employees and community.

“IDEAL believes that relationships are critical and are important to its brand, culture and unique set of values,” said James. He stressed the fact that work culture is one of IDEAL’s top priorities. IDEAL hires based upon heart, drive and ambition as opposed to work experience. They believe that they can teach the skills needed to work at IDEAL to anybody who has the willingness to strive for more.

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bottom line

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As technology is rapidly changing, so are the way companies do business. James noted that consumers have access to nearly every product produced throughout the world via the internet. To compete in the world of ever-evolving and rapidly changing technology, IDEAL has created a culture that promotes and rewards innovation by all workers. However, just because technology is ever-evolving and rapidly changing does not mean that IDEAL should shift their company culture. IDEAL plans to maintain their long-run, family-oriented business environment.

During 2010, IDEAL acquired SK Hand Tool, Pratt Read (Connecticut) and Western Forge (Colorado Springs). In doing so, IDEAL added screwdrivers and ratchet wrenches to its family of professional hand tool and electrical connector businesses. IDEAL then completed a new 130,000 building for SK Hand Tool in only 90 days with the support of the City of Sycamore and its design and contractors.

The DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation is a public/private partnership working to facilitate sustainable and diversified growth with DeKalb County. During the past four years, 22 manufacturers have either moved to DeKalb County or expanded their operations.

"DCEDC works with local companies to identify needs and opportunities and connect them with resources to support improvements, expansion, and workforce development needs," DCEDC Executive Director Paul Borek said. "DCEDC also markets DeKalb County to site selectors and industrial realtors to attract new companies to DeKalb County."



IDEAL INDUSTRIES Chairman/CEO Jim James discusses the family-owned manufacturer's growth plans at DCEDC's "Say Yes to Manufacturing" business roundtable luncheon in Sycamore, IL



IDEAL CEO Jim James and DCEDC Executive Director Paul Borek champion U.S. manufacturing in DeKalb County, IL



Photo by Danielle Guerra (dguerra@shawmedia.com)

IDEAL's manufacturing processes are displayed for curious event attendees in Sycamore, IL.



Photo by Danielle Guerra (dguerra@shawmedia.com)

Attendees are astounded by the way IDEAL's products are made in Sycamore, IL.