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**2016 MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTOR
OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED**

TALLAHASSEE, FL.— At the 13th Annual Manufacturers Summit and Marketplace on November 16 in Gainesville, FL the Manufacturers Association of Florida announced the winners of the 2016 Manufacturers and Distributors of the Year competition.

Fifteen judges narrowed the competition to twelve finalists in four categories. Each company was judged on leadership, strategic planning, customer and market focus, measurement, analysis and knowledge management, workforce focus, and process management. In addition to evaluation of the applications, the judges interviewed each finalist and toured their facilities.

The winners chosen by category were:

Category 1 (1-75 Employees) – Data Graphics, Inc. of Mount Dora

Category 2 (76-200 Employees) - UTC – Aerospace Systems Worldwide Repair of Miramar

Category 3 (201+ Employees) – Sikorsky Aircraft Florida Assembly & Flight Operations of Jupiter

Distributor – Johnson & Johnson Vision Care Customer & Logistics Services of Jacksonville

Other finalists included Fracture, Inc. of Gainesville, Trilogy Laboratories, LLC of Fort Myers, American Elite Molding of Crestview, KRS Global Biotechnology of Boca Raton, Harris Corporation of Palm Bay, Vac-Con, Inc. of Green Cove Springs, C.H. Robinson North American Surface Transportation of Tampa, and City Furniture of Tamarac.

“These companies are the best of the best in Florida. They serve as role models for all Florida manufacturers and distributors and are positioning themselves for tremendous growth and success” said Nancy Stephens, Executive Director, Manufacturers Association of Florida.

For further distinction, MAF awarded those finalists who also hold membership in the association with the 2016 Seal of Excellence. The Seal sets those finalists apart with an additional honor in recognition of their advances and leadership in the industry.

Nominations for the 2017 Manufacturers of the Year competition will be accepted June-August 2017. Details can be found on the website in 2017 at www.mafmfg.com.

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About the Manufacturers Association of Florida (MAF)

The MAF was formed in 2006 to improve the business climate for manufacturers in Florida. There are some 19,000 manufacturers in Florida investing in new technology, employing highly skilled workers and competing globally. For more information about MAF, visit www.mafmfg.com.