

Vermeer Corporation CEO Mary Andringa was presented with the sixth annual Perfect Engine Award at TBM's annual Executive Exchange Conference in Naples, Florida. The award was in recognition of Vermeer's commitment to a continuous improvement philosophy and its success as a lean enterprise. Based in Pella, Iowa, Vermeer is a global manufacturing leader in construction and agricultural equipment.

The "Perfect Engine" refers to the precision interworking of human resources and physical assets to achieve outstanding productivity results that create business agility, growth, and profitability.

This annual award honors a manufacturer that has been successful in implementing LeanSigma® methodologies, the fusion of the two most powerful business systems from Toyota (lean) and GE (Six Sigma), throughout the entire organization, including its value chain.

Approaching the 10th anniversary of its lean journey, Vermeer continues to use the LeanSigma approach to extensively innovate, develop, and launch new products and has leveraged its competitive advantages into



growth in sales and productivity. From 1998 to 2007 the company has executed hundreds of kaizen events worldwide with the following results:

- Productivity improved 26 percent
- Total inventory decreased 12 percent
- Total of potential savings of more than \$29.7 million
- 70 percent of the total employees have participated on a kaizen team
- 98 percent of their corporate management staff has participated on a kaizen team

"Vermeer won this year's Perfect Engine Award because of its proven ability to implement and leverage cutting-edge processes that facilitate continuous innovation and synchronization throughout its value chain," said Anand Sharma, president and CEO of TBM Consulting Group. "Vermeer has demonstrated significant success gaining market share and building brand loyalty through its LeanSigma transformation and commitment to investing in the workforce."

Vermeer employs more than 2,100 people in seven production facilities and offices totaling 1.5 million square feet, in addition to the Global Pavilion training center and museum. Founded in 1948, the company is celebrating its 60th anniversary, manufacturing a various lines of industrial and agricultural products under the vision of "Taking Care of Customers Worldwide with Better Solutions." ■