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For Immediate Release

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New North Company Execs Named Wisconsin Small Business Owners of the Year

Marvel Manufacturing Owners Robert Beach, James Jourdan, John Petek Honored by U.S. Small Business Administration

NEW NORTH, April 1, 2008 – Robert Beach, James Jourdan, and John Petek, co-owners of Oshkosh-based Marvel Manufacturing Company, Inc., have been named the Wisconsin Small Business Owners of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Petek, president, Beach, vice president, and Jourdan, operations manager and executive vice president, will compete for the title of National Small Business Owner of the Year during the SBA's National Small Business Week events in Washington, D.C. from April 21-25.

"Manufacturing companies in the New North have been garnering a number of honors lately, due in no small part to our region's innovative business leaders, talented workforce, and great schools," said Jerry Murphy, Executive Director of the New North, Inc. "Congratulations to Marvel Manufacturing on all their success."

The three owners purchased Marvel, then Armstrong-Blum Manufacturing, in 2004, helping the company retain 70 jobs, expand its market share, and add new jobs to the company's workforce.

The SBA judged business owners on staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service offered, adversity, and contributions to aid community-oriented projects.

In February, three other New North companies – Sargento Foods, Bassett Mechanical, and J.J. Keller & Associates – were all honored at the Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year Awards in Milwaukee, earning the Grand Award in the Mega and Large company categories, and a "Strengthening Communities" award, respectively.

Marvel Manufacturing, Inc. has been designing and manufacturing the highest quality metal cutting saws available for the past 100 years. Marvel's products include Marvel vertical tilt frame bandsaws, horizontal bandsaws (under both the Marvel and Spartan names), Spartan ironworkers, plate saws, carbide tip circular saws and a full line of material handling equipment, including conveyors, loaders, ejectors and length gauges. For more information, please visit www.sawing.com.

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New North, Inc. is a regional collaboration effort focused on promoting regional cooperation and economic development in an 18-county region in Northeast Wisconsin. The 18 counties included in the New North are Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Waupaca, Brown, Shawano, Oconto, Marinette, Door, Kewaunee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Florence, Menominee, and Waushara. To find out more information about New North, Inc., please visit our website at www.thenewnorth.com.

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