



Indiana Manufacturers Association
Indiana's Leading Voice for Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

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Senator Lugar Presents U.S. Senate Productivity Award to International Paper

INDIANAPOLIS, February 21, 2003 – Yesterday, Senator Richard G. Lugar presented the 2001 U.S. Senate Productivity Award to International Paper (IP) of Terre Haute. The presentation took place at the Indiana Manufacturers Association's (IMA) office in Indianapolis.

On hand at the ceremony were Robert Thomas, Mill Manager; Jeff Brown, Production Manager; Bob Sleeman, EHS Department Engineer; Keith Childress, PACE Union President; and Greg Keegan, PACE Union Vice President, all of International Paper, Terre Haute Mill.

Also on hand were IMA President Pat Kiely, IMA Vice President of Governmental Services Ed Roberts, IMA Vice President of Membership Sales Scot Ford and several other IMA staffers.

International Paper ranked number one among a group of five finalists in the last round of competition.

IP is a manufacturer of lightweight paper used in corrugated boxes. IP's productivity goal was to change to a lighter weight paper for its product. The improvement helps its customers save money and reduces the amount of paper used while maintaining the product's integrity. In addition, the lighter grade of paper contains a higher percentage of recycled fiber, helping to reduce Indiana solid waste.

IP also improved its mill processes by installing cameras to monitor machine operations.

Machine efficiency was improved through an especially unique preventative maintenance system focusing on proactive maintenance.

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A crew concept was employed and problem-solving teams formed to address and resolve problems. In addition, hourly employees were empowered to maintain more control in their daily job activities; and IP achieved a zero lost-day injury rating in 2001.

For more information about International Paper and its achievements, please contact Terry Nishimoto at 812-234-6688.

The U.S. Senate Productivity Award is given annually and is sponsored by both Senator Lugar and the Indiana Manufacturers Association. The award recognizes those Indiana companies that have achieved outstanding productivity gains and are willing to share their success stories with other Indiana companies in an effort to boost overall productivity.

IMA is now preparing for the 2002 U.S. Senate Productivity Award competition. This year, applications for the awards will be available online at the IMA Web site at www.imaweb.com. The entry deadline for the 2002 award is April 30, 2003, so visit the Web site (www.imaweb.com) today to obtain your application form.

For further details regarding the 2002 competition, please contact Charlene Hickey at the Indiana Manufacturers Association at 800-462-7762 or at chickey@imaweb.com. The Indiana Manufacturers Association, Indiana's leading voice for industry, was formed in 1901. The IMA is a business advocacy organization representing nearly 1,600 Indiana companies and promoting economic development and the creation of high-wage jobs in Indiana.

Photos from the award presentation are available upon request. Contact Charlene Hickey at chickey@imaweb.com or at 800-462-7762.