



IQS honored with client Cequent Performance Products in the Supply Network Mastery Category at *Managing Automation's* 2008 Progressive Manufacturing 50 Awards

June 27, 2008

Integrated Quality Systems (IQS) was honored as a technology partner along with Cequent Performance Products, a winner of the fourth annual Progressive Manufacturing 50 Awards, presented by *Managing Automation*, a Thomas Publishing Company, LLC media brand. In the category of Supply Network Mastery, the award recognized Cequent's use of IQS' Enterprise Quality Management System to identify, manage and control quality at its Chinese supplier facilities to the quality levels achieved within the company's North America supply base.

The Progressive Manufacturing 50 Awards Program recognizes 50 projects that have leveraged technology to create business value in at least one of the eight core disciplines. The award disciplines include: Business Model Mastery, Customer Mastery, Supply Network Mastery, Data & Integration Mastery, Innovation Mastery, Training & Education Mastery, Leadership and Operational Excellence.

"Cequent excels in using technology as a competitive weapon. By utilizing the web, and enterprise quality practices, Cequent was able to mitigate supply chain risk that top companies are currently experiencing" said Michael Rappaport, CEO of IQS. Cequent was able to use technology to share and implement detailed quality processes with Chinese suppliers, and verify execution back in the states. This enabled daily feedback on performance and timely issue resolution and prevention, dropping defects from 33,000 to 300. It had the added benefit of breaking down cultural barriers and providing Cequent with the ability to mitigate one of the primary risks of doing business in China – controlling quality and the cost of poor quality.

Project nominations were reviewed by an independent judging panel chaired by David Brousell, Editor-in-Chief, *Managing Automation*. Judges included Lisa Bodell, CEO, FutureThink; Bill Canis, Vice President for Research and Innovation, The Manufacturing Institute at the National Association of Manufacturers; Douglas A. Engel, Former Vice Chairman and Manufacturing Industry Practice Leader, Deloitte; Chris Knuffman, Lean Manufacturing Champion, Quincy Compressor (2006 Award Winner); Larry Lapide, Ph.D., Director, Demand Management, MIT Center for Transportation & Logistics; Paul E. Martin, Global Chief Information Officer, Rexam Plc (2005 Award Winner); Bruce McKay, Executive Vice President, Livingston & Haven (2007 Progressive Manufacturer of the Year); Scott Mingus, Global Director, New Project Development, Glatfelter (2007 Award Winner); Eric Middelstadt, CEO, The National Council of Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM); James A. Robbins, Partner, Accenture Industrial Equipment Practice; Maureen Steinwall, President, Steinwall Inc. (2006 Award Winner); and Steven Vidakovic, Ph.D., Technology and Knowledge Integration, Global Supply Chain, Pfizer Inc. (2007 Award Winner).

Judges evaluated and scored nominated projects based on the following criteria: project scope, business impact, customer impact, technology use and scale. Progressive Manufacturing 50 winners were the companies receiving the highest total scores in their respective categories.

"This new crop of Progressive Manufacturing winners reflects the amazing creativity and determination alive today in the manufacturing community," said David R. Brousell, Editor-in-Chief of *Managing Automation*. "These companies are taking bold steps to rethink their business models and processes, their relationships with customers and partners, and to create new advantages for themselves in business speed and value. In doing so, they are positioning their organizations for greater success now and in the years ahead."

The Progressive Manufacturing 50 award winners were honored and presented with their awards at the 2008 Progressive Manufacturing Summit, taking place June 10-12 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Las Vegas. In addition to presenting the awards to the Progressive Manufacturing 50 winners, *Managing Automation* will also announce the High Achievers in each of the 8 disciplines as well as the 2008 Progressive Manufacturer of the Year.

"We look forward to recognizing and celebrating our winners in front of an audience of their peers across all facets of manufacturing at the Progressive Manufacturing Summit in Las Vegas this June," said *Managing Automation* Publisher Heather Mikisch. "Winning this award is a tremendous honor that not only helps these manufacturers demonstrate their progress and success in the marketplace, but also sets them apart from the competition."

About Managing Automation

Managing Automation, published by Thomas Publishing Company, LLC, provides a complete set of decision-support informational tools for progressive manufacturers – companies who are using information and automation technologies to transform their businesses and create a sustainable competitive advantage. Its monthly magazine, website, information technology comparison and match database, and executive conferences reach the entire integrated technology buying team – executives, line-of-business managers and IT management – at every stage of the technology buying process. Additional information can be found at www.managingautomation.com.

About IQS

IQS – Integrated Quality Systems, helps companies reduce costs and risk by improving quality throughout their enterprise and supply chain. Since its inception in 1988, IQS has been the choice of leading automotive, aerospace, chemical and process, discreet, medical device and recently high-profile manufactures such as those in the pet food industry. IQS reduces risk through a bottom-up verifiable approach to manufacturing. With countless case studies and bottom-line ROI testimonials, IQS is the industry leader in enterprise risk and quality management software. For more information, please visit www.iqs.com.

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