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Photo Etch Becomes Third Company to Earn SEA Certification, Resulting in Immediate Performance Improvements

FORT WORTH, Texas – Feb. 18, 2008 – After an extensive investment of both time and money, Photo Etch earned a certification from the Supplier Excellence Alliance (SEA) on January 31st. Photo Etch is only the third company to earn the certification, which acknowledges the company's dedication to developing a Lean Enterprise System.

SEA is a nonprofit alliance formed by aerospace, defense and space companies. The organization's mission is to make the U.S. supply chain more globally competitive by creating a single lean enterprise system. Photo Etch joined SEA in August 2006 and became the first supplier in Texas to engage in SEA's lean enterprise conversion process. The initiative already has achieved significant improvements for Photo Etch in key areas, including order entry, purchasing, material control and engineering.

At this point, Photo Etch has completed Stage 1 of SEA certification, which is designed to stabilize the organization from the top down. The company already has begun working toward Stage 2 certification, which focuses on supplier integration. The third and final stage hones the company's sustainability.

"Thus far, we have invested more than 7,000 hours in this initiative in the past 18 months," said Randy Fry, chief executive officer of Photo Etch. "Every department in the company was involved, including operations, management and workforce development. As a result, we've developed standardized processes, reduced inventory and improved our management culture."

To achieve Stage 1 certification, a company must document and successfully carry out 11 processes. They include strategic planning, leadership communication, material management, workforce development, and more. In addition, the company must track and show improvements in the following four business metrics over 15 months: inventory turns, sales per employee, on-time delivery, and process maturity. SEA then spends two full days of auditing to confirm compliance.

“This certification does more than simply demonstrate our commitment to lean manufacturing,” Fry said. “It pays off for our company, our customers and our suppliers.”

About Photo Etch

Photo Etch designs and manufactures displays and control panels used for navigation systems, as well as military and commercial airborne and ground communications. The company also manufactures flight simulation and training components. One of Photo Etch’s specialties is night vision technology for airborne military operations. Photo Etch’s client base includes major defense contractors like Boeing, Lockheed-Martin, L-3 Communications and Rockwell Collins, as well as U.S. Department of Defense agencies like the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy. Founded in 1960, Photo Etch follows ISO 9001 and SAE AS9100 quality standards and has implemented a company-wide lean manufacturing initiative. The firm operates from a 50,000-square-foot facility in Fort Worth, Texas. For more information, visit www.photo-etch.com or call (817) 332-3806.

About SEA

SEA is the non-profit alliance of aerospace and defense prime and tier-one contractors and leading sub-tier suppliers organized to transform the global supply chain. Prime-empowered and supplier-led, SEA helps improve the performance of small and mid-sized production suppliers. To learn more about SEA, visit the SEA website at www.seaonline.org.