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## PLYMOUTH TUBE RECEIVES AMM WELDED TUBE AND PIPE PRODUCER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WARRENVILLE, IL - Plymouth Tube Company's Eupora, Mississippi precision steel tubing mill is the proud recipient of the 2012 American Metal Market (AMM) award for "Best Welded Tube and Pipe Producer of the Year." They were presented the award and trophy on February 6<sup>th</sup> during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Steel Tube and Pipe Conference hosted by AMM in Houston.

"It is an honor to receive this award," stated Curt McDowell, Plymouth Tube's Eupora General Manager. "We continually strive to exceed customer expectations in every facet of our operations. So, it is fantastic to be recognized as the industry's leading welded tube producer in North America."

The AMM Awards for Steel Tube and Pipe Excellence were designed to recognize the most innovative companies across multiple categories. Top performers were selected from a pool of nominations. A total of 22 nominees were named as finalists in 10 different categories by a panel of independent industry experts. The judges evaluated nominations using a point-based qualitative approach to determine the overall winners among mills, distributors and other service providers with operations in North America. The Eupora Mill was chosen as the winner over two other finalists in the category of Welded Tube and Pipe Producer of the Year.

To be selected, the Eupora Team submitted the winning application as it demonstrated excellence in implementation of lean manufacturing, a high regard to quality, empowerment of all employees, a focus on continuous improvement and a high regard for the use of operational best practices. These are all attributes of Plymouth's Manufacturing Excellence Program, around which Eupora is driving its continued high level of performance.

The Eupora mill has been methodically transforming its manufacturing operations by having the right people, structure and disciplined systems in place. Service and quality are second to none. McDowell expressed, "Our people are outstanding and they make us who we are." The Eupora mill provides precision steel tubing to the Fluid Power, Transportation, Medical, Military, Agricultural and Construction markets.

In 2008, the Fabricated Tube Solutions (FTS) business unit was created within the Eupora mill. This organized the existing cutting and end-finishing operations into a formal business unit which focuses on added-value opportunities for Eupora's customers. These additional tube fabrication capabilities have helped Eupora's customers streamline their material and supply chain to truly create a "one stop experience".

## **About Plymouth Tube**

Since 1924, Plymouth Tube Co. has served the steel tubing industry with continued manufacturing excellence practices and technical expertise that promotes industrial partnerships with many of their customers. Currently headquartered in suburban Chicago with 11 manufacturing mills across the U.S., Plymouth is a global supplier of specialty carbon alloy, nickel alloy, and stainless steel tubing for mechanical, pressure, boiler, and hydraulic applications. Steel, nickel and titanium extruded and cold drawn shapes are produced by Plymouth Engineered Shapes. Plymouth is well positioned for continued global growth by supplying the aerospace, transportation, energy, and industrial markets. Visit http://www.plymouth.com for more details.