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The Sterling Council Announces Four Regional Manufacturers Recognized for High Performance

Tallahassee, FL (April 1, 2026) – The Sterling Council is pleased to share that four Florida manufacturers have earned the coveted 2026 Sterling Manufacturing Business Excellence (SMBE) recognition. The SMBE recognition is given annually to regional manufacturers who achieve high levels of performance in several categories, including leadership, strategy, customer and market focus, organizational intelligence, workforce, and operations. The 2026 SMBE recognition is given to:

Gold Award Recipient:

- **Jupiter Bach North America, Inc.**, Pensacola, FL (<https://jupiterbach.com/location/usa-pensacola-fl/>)

Silver Award Recipients:

- **Eastman Chemical Taminco US LLC**, Pace, FL (<https://www.eastman.com/en/who-we-are/locations/pace-fl-usa>)
- **Weedoo Greenboat, Inc.**, Stuart, FL (<https://weedoboats.com/>)

Highly Innovative Design Award Recipient:

- **LightPath Technologies**, Orlando, FL (<https://www.lightpath.com/>)

“The Sterling Council is proud to recognize these four exceptional manufacturers, each demonstrating remarkable excellence and leadership within our regional manufacturing community,” said Roland Martinez, Chairman of the Sterling Council. “Their commitment to high performance, innovation, and continuous improvement is truly commendable. Through a rigorous evaluation process, these companies have shown their ability to address strategic challenges, align resources effectively, and position themselves for long-term success. They represent the very best of regional manufacturing. On behalf of The Sterling Council and our valued partners, I extend heartfelt congratulations to each organization on this well-earned achievement.”

These four companies emerged as top performers from a field of more than 100 regional manufacturers nominated for this year’s awards. A team of Sterling Council–trained examiners and representatives from the manufacturing community contributed their time and expertise to conduct a thorough evaluation of each nominee, including site visits and interviews with organizational leaders and employees.

The Sterling Council will honor and showcase these companies as they receive their awards at the 34th Sterling Awards Banquet on May 29 at the JW Marriott Bonnet Creek in Orlando. They will also be featured in plant tours and related activities designed to share best practices and strengthen the

region's manufacturing ecosystem. For more information about the SMBE Award, please visit <https://thesterlingcouncil.org/smbea/> or contact the Sterling Council at SMBEA@thesterlingcouncil.org.

The Sterling Council established in 1992; is a public/private not-for-profit corporation supported by the Executive Office of the Governor. The Council oversees the Governor's Sterling Award for Performance Excellence and the Georgia Oglethorpe Award presented annually to high performing, role-model organizations, both private and public, who demonstrate superior management approaches and role model results. Sterling's annual conference teaches participants how to elevate performance and increase productivity. Nearly 600 executives and professionals gather at this event each year for a one-stop source for education, information, and inspiration. The conference concludes with the recognition of best practices, the Team Showcase Champion, and the presentation of Sterling, Oglethorpe, and Manufacturing Business Excellence Awards. For more information, please contact Dione Geiger at (850) 922-5316 or visit www.thesterlingcouncil.org.