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**SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC NORTH AMERICAN OPERATING DIVISION  
PLANT LOCATION WINS *INDUSTRYWEEK* AWARD**

*Peru, Ind. Manufacturing Facility Honored with Best Plants Award*

**PALATINE, Ill.** – September 21, 2006 – The Schneider Electric North American Operating Division today announced its manufacturing plant in Peru, Ind, was recognized by *IndustryWeek* as a winner of its annual Best Plants Competition. The competition, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, is an annual salute to 10 outstanding manufacturing facilities that are on the leading edge of efforts to increase competitiveness, enhance customer satisfaction, and create stimulating and rewarding work environments.

“This award would not have been possible without the teamwork of all the Peru employees. This award is a testament to our employees’ commitment to be competitive in a global environment and the way they have embraced the plant’s lean 5S philosophy of visualization, standardization and order,” said Robin Singleton, plant manager of the Peru facility. “All of our employees should be extremely proud and congratulated for their efforts.”

A panel of *IndustryWeek* editors judged the candidate facilities against a detailed list of criteria. The panel looked for evidence of practice and performance in such categories as management strategy, community involvement, customer and supplier relations, employee relations, environmental and safety programs, inventory management, manufacturing and flexibility, productivity, use of technology and market results.

“The facilities chosen this year truly exhibit the characteristics of world-class manufacturing plants. Their drive for continuous improvement is a testament to strong leadership, the involvement of their employees, solid supply chain management, and a willingness to adopt strategic technological solutions,” said David Blanchard, *IndustryWeek*’s editor-in-chief. “*IndustryWeek* salutes the exemplary achievements of the 2006 *IW* Best Plants and is proud to share their success stories.”

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## PERU MANUFACTURING FACILITY WINS BEST PLANTS AWARD

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The Peru facility was one of nearly 200 facilities nominated between October 2005 and March 2006. In July 2006, *IndustryWeek* narrowed down the nominated plants to 25 finalists, and the 10 confirmed winners of the Best Plants Competition will be publicly recognized in the October issue of *IndustryWeek*.

“We are honored to be recognized as one of *IndustryWeek*’s Best Plants,” said Dave Petratis, president and CEO of the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. “We continue to strive for excellence at all of our facilities and remain dedicated to enhancing customer satisfaction and safe, rewarding work environments. We commend the Peru facility for a job well done.”

### **About IndustryWeek**

*IndustryWeek* connects decision-makers within manufacturing enterprises to share ideas and tools that inspire action. Its award-winning presentation of trends, news, analysis, research and peer-to-peer conversation motivates manufacturing leaders to achieve their goals. In print, online and in person, the *IndustryWeek* community is the leading resource for manufacturing operations knowledge. *IW* is a brand of Penton Media, Inc. ([www.penton.com](http://www.penton.com), OTCBB: PTON), a diversified business-to-business media company.

### **About Schneider Electric**

Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric had sales of \$2.8 billion (U.S.) in 2005. The North American Operating Division is one of four operating divisions of Schneider Electric, headquartered in Paris, France, and markets the Square D, Telemecanique and Merlin Gerin brand products to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D brand, with Telemecanique becoming increasingly known in the industrial control and automation markets and supported by many Square D distributors. For 100 years, Square D has been a market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. Schneider Electric is a global electrical industry leader with 2005 sales of approximately \$14.5 billion (U.S.). Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at:

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