



Press Release

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SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC'S SQUARE D[®] MANUFACTURING FACILITY RECEIVES TOP PLANT AWARD FROM *PLANT ENGINEERING* MAGAZINE

Palatine, Ill. (USA), Feb. 9, 2009 — The Schneider Electric North American Operating Division announced today that its Square D[®] molded case circuit breaker manufacturing facility in Columbia, Mo., was recognized by *Plant Engineering* magazine as a winner of its Top Plant award. The fifth annual Top Plant award is a yearly honor bestowed to exceptional industrial plants that effectively utilize the plant engineering function to achieve superior operational results.

"The success of Schneider Electric's Columbia, Mo., plant is a reflection of our employees' commitment to manufacturing excellence, to continuous improvement and to providing a superior customer experience," said Doug Frevert, plant manager of the Columbia facility. "Our focus on people and making the safety and development of our employees a top priority has enabled us to service our customers with unparalleled efficiency and quality."

In addition to manufacturing Square D molded case circuit breakers for commercial and industrial applications, the Columbia facility also does stamping and plating for sister plants. Square D is the flagship brand of the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division and is the market-leading brand of electrical distribution and industrial control products, systems and services. The Columbia plant's product portfolio has been transformed during the last three years, which has included moving 13 production lines into the plant, starting a new QOM2

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COLUMBIA MANUFACTURING FACILITY WINS TOP PLANT AWARD

Page 2 of 2

automated production cell and starting up two automation lines associated with the production of Powerpact H&J. Despite 60 percent of the plant's associates having different job functions due to the product transfers, the Columbia facility has increased its annual variable cost productivity by 11.6 percent since 2004.

The facility also has seen tremendous improvements in employee safety, such as decreasing its medical incident rate (MIR) from 12.11 in 1996 to 0.93 in 2009, which is well below the industry MIR average of 5.2. Schneider Electric's Safety Leader program has had a significant emphasis on safety measure improvements, as the plant to date has more than 2.7 million hours and 1,550 days worked with a lost-time incident.

"We're pleased to honor Schneider Electric's Columbia, Mo., manufacturing facility with the 2008 Top Plant award," said Bob Vavra, editor of *Plant Engineering* magazine. "The plant's ability to maintain efficient automation processes through a large transformation of its product portfolio while steadily improving its tremendous safety record is quite impressive. Their work sets a high standard of manufacturing excellence."

The Columbia facility was among two plants to receive a Top Plant award in 2008. The two plants honored with the Top Plant award were publicly recognized in the December 2008 issue of *Plant Engineering* magazine and will also be honored at an awards event March 29 through 31, 2009, in Charleston, S.C. Schneider Electric's Lincoln, Neb., Square D® QO® circuit breaker manufacturing plant also received the award in 2006.

"We are excited to be recognized as one of *Plant Engineering's* Top Plants for the second time in three years," said Chris Curtis, president and CEO of the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. "The Top Plant award is a direct reflection to our ongoing commitment to partnering with our customers to provide quality, customized solutions that help our customers make the most of their energy."

About Schneider Electric

As a global specialist in energy management with operations in more than 100 countries, Schneider Electric offers integrated solutions across multiple market segments, including leadership positions in energy and infrastructure, industrial processes, building automation, and data centers/networks, as well as a broad presence in residential applications. Focused on making energy safe, reliable, and efficient, the company's 120,000 employees achieved sales of more than \$23.7 billion in 2007. Schneider Electric total sales in North America in 2007 were \$6.6 billion (U.S.). These include the sales of the North American Operating Division of Schneider Electric (NAOD), as well as North American sales other Schneider Electric companies such as APC, TAC, etc. Headquartered in Palatine, Ill., the North American Operating Division markets many of the brands of Schneider Electric to customers in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, Schneider Electric is best known by its flagship Square D® brand. Visit Schneider Electric on the Internet at www.schneider-electric.com.

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This release is submitted for consideration in both print and Web publications.

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