



Schneider Electric – North American Operating Division  
1415 South Roselle Road • Palatine, IL 60067-7399 • Tel. (847) 397-2600 • Fax (847) 925-7271

Contact:

Jen Dirks  
Bader Rutter & Associates  
Phone: (262) 938-5565  
Fax: (262) 938-5552  
[jdirks@bader-rutter.com](mailto:jdirks@bader-rutter.com)

Tim Trush  
Schneider Electric, North American Operating Division  
Phone: (847) 397-2600  
[timothy-m.trush@us.schneider-electric.com](mailto:timothy-m.trush@us.schneider-electric.com)

[www.us.schneider-electric.com](http://www.us.schneider-electric.com)

## **SQUARE D® QO® CIRCUIT BREAKER MANUFACTURING FACILITY WINS TOP PLANT AWARD**

*Lincoln, Neb., Manufacturing Plant Honored by Plant Engineering Magazine*

**PALATINE, III.** – December 15, 2006 – The Schneider Electric North American Operating Division announced today that its Square D® QO® circuit breaker manufacturing plant in Lincoln, Neb., was recognized by *Plant Engineering* magazine as a winner of its annual Top Plant award. The Lincoln facility is Schneider Electric's showcase plant for manufacturing automation – producing the highest volume of Square D QO circuit breakers in the North America. 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 Top Plant award, now in its third year, is an annual salute to exceptional industrial plants that effectively utilize the plant engineering function to achieve outstanding operational results.

“This award exemplifies Schneider Electric's commitment to service excellence, safety, productivity and our plant engineering function,” said Jamie McDonald, plant manager of the Lincoln facility. “Our automation processes provide our customers with the finest Square D circuit breakers in the world, and our continued dedication to customer service is unparalleled. Our employees should be commended for their efforts to help us reach these goals.”

The Top Plant award seeks to demonstrate the contribution of the plant engineering function in supporting overall plant profitability and performance. The award recognizes plants that have achieved a high level of operational excellence, best practices in plant engineering management, and quantifiable levels of excellence for manufacturing/processing plants and the plant engineering function. A panel of *Plant Engineering* editors judged the candidate facilities against the aforementioned objectives and a detailed list of criteria.

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**Schneider Electric**  
**North American Operating Division**  
1415 South Roselle Road  
Palatine, IL 60067-7399  
Tel. (1) 847-397-2600  
Fax (1) 847-925-7271  
[www.us.schneider-electric.com](http://www.us.schneider-electric.com)

## LINCOLN MANUFACTURING FACILITY WINS TOP PLANT AWARD

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"We're pleased to recognize the Lincoln manufacturing facility with this year's Top Plant award," said Bob Vavra, editor of *Plant Engineering* magazine. "What sets top manufacturers apart, in our view, is a commitment to people, process and safety. We were impressed by the Lincoln facility's efforts toward continuous improvement, its tremendous safety achievements and the quality of the circuit breakers manufactured by its team of professionals in all areas of the plant. Their work stands as a benchmark of excellence for others to study and emulate."

The Lincoln facility was among three plants to receive Top Plant recognition in 2006. The three plants honored with the Top Plant award will be publicly recognized in the December issue of *Plant Engineering* magazine and at a March awards event in Charleston, S.C.

"We are honored to be recognized as one of *Plant Engineering's* Top Plants," said Dave Petratis, president and CEO of the Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. "The QO circuit breaker has a legacy of more than 50 years as an industry-leading premier product of the Square D brand. The employees of our Lincoln facility are maintaining this legacy with their commitment to producing the best possible circuit breaker for our customers."

### **About *Plant Engineering***

Celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007, *Plant Engineering* provides practical and strategic knowledge for modern plant-level managers in all areas of manufacturing. By providing useful technical and operational guidance, the magazine's print and online content helps plant supervisors solve problems, improve operations, increase profits, and ensure reliability in the design, selection, installation, operation, modification, and maintenance of industrial plant equipment and systems.

### **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:

- Corporate – <http://www.us.schneider-electric.com>
- Telemecanique Products – <http://www.us.telemecanique.com>
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