

HIGHLIGHTS



Robert Bosch accepts the World Trader of the Year Award for 2006

The South Carolina World Trade Center is proud to honor the winners of the 2006 World Trader of the Year Award. As always, the applicants were all very highly qualified but the winners truly demonstrated a commitment to expanding international engagement through trade, while serving as a role model to businesses engaged in international commerce across the state of South Carolina.

The winner of the small category, a company with fewer than 500 employees, was JBE, Inc of Hartsville, SC (www.jbeinc.net). JBE provides quality, cost, and delivery of sub-assembly, warehousing, inventory management, and sorting since 1982. JBE is a strong, family owned and run business that has worked hard to increase their International knowledge and presence. JBE has continued to pursue international suppliers and have found great success in doing so. Recently JBE has increased their sourcing to India, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand. Located in an economically depressed sector of South Carolina, JBE has brought many jobs to local citizens by bringing their supply and sub-assembly work to an area that does not have these products or services available.

The winner of the large category, a company with more than 500 employees, was Robert Bosch Corporation (www.bosch.com). Robert Bosch Corporation is a leading global manufacturer of automotive and industrial technology, consumer goods, and building technology. The global orientation of the Bosch group is almost as old as the Bosch company itself. The first international branches were set up at the end of the 19th century. Today, Bosch is active on every continent and has subsidiaries and associated companies in more than 50 countries. Bosch operates roughly 260 production sites worldwide, of which 200 are located outside Germany- in EU, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The Bosch Group employs approx. 251,000 people in more than 50 countries. Recently the company expanded its North American presence when it, along with partner Mann & Hummel Group, acquired Troy, Michigan-based ArvinMeritor Inc.'s Purolator replacement filter business. Beyond fostering international trade, Bosch Corporation develops long-term partnerships between SC schools, colleges, industries, businesses, and government agencies that can develop and implement strategies to ensure strong economic development for the state of South Carolina through targeted academic and skill training programs. The Bosch Corporation has offices located in Anderson and Charleston, South Carolina.

These awards were presented by Richard Dandrea of the World Trade Center Association at the SC World Trade Center's 8th Annual Meeting and Banquet entitled, "Passport to Global Markets," this past November 16, 2006 at the Charleston Area Convention Center.