

TACONY CAPTURES 2003 MISSOURI INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR AWARD

ST. LOUIS — Tacony Corporation, a leading distributor and manufacturer of sewing machines and vacuum cleaners, recently won the 2003 Missouri Industry of the Year Award in the small company classification.

“We are pleased and honored to win this prestigious award,” said Ken Tacony, president and chief executive officer at Tacony, whose company received the award at the state capitol building in Jefferson City, Mo. “The 2003 Missouri Industry of the Year Award is really a tribute to our customer-focused employees, their dedication of excellence and their tremendous community spirit. This is a great honor for the whole Tacony team.”

Sponsored by the Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM) and the Mid-Missouri Business Journal, the annual award recognizes the best and brightest Missouri companies that have become leaders in making the state a better place to live and work. AIM is a business and industry association that serves nearly 1,500 state employers.

In addition to capturing the 2003 Missouri Industry of the Year Award, Tacony also received the Missouri Impact Award for continuous improvement in manufacturing excellence from the Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center. In 2000, Tacony opened a new facility in St. James, Mo., where the company manufactures its two lines of vacuum cleaners: Simplicity and Riccar.

Tacony also manufactures and develops a variety of other consumer products, including sewing machines and software, ceiling fans, floor care parts and equipment, commercial carpet care equipment, and commercial floor care equipment. Headquartered in St. Louis, Tacony has six distribution centers nationwide, including St. James, Mo.; St. Louis, Mo.; Fullerton, Calif.; Carlstadt, N.J.; Fort Worth, Texas; and Jacksonville, Fla.

Tacony has been involved in numerous community programs, including the Boys and Girls Town of Missouri, the Nelson Hart Community Center, Missouri National Guard, Head Start, the American Red Cross, the St. James Kiwanis Club and Guardian Angels.

The company also started the Great American Sweeper Swap, a national vacuum trade-in program sponsored by Riccar Vacuums and benefiting Habitat for Humanity International. The program focuses on refurbishing used vacuum cleaners to give to Habitat homeowners.

Other companies winning awards included SSM Health Care (large classification) in St. Louis and Hollister, Inc. (medium classification) in Kirksville, Mo.

Tacony Corporation is a 57 year, family owned company headquartered in St. Louis, Mo. Tacony is a major import, export, manufacturing, and marketing company offering a wide range of consumer products. For more information visit www.tacony.com.