2021 Outstanding Exporter Honorees

Alliance Rubber Company (Arkansas) – [https://www.rubberband.com/](https://www.rubberband.com/)

**Company Representative:** Raquel Carter, International Sales Manager - rcart@alliance-rubber.com

**Company Overview:** Alliance Rubber Company has been manufacturing rubber bands since 1923. Products are designed to be used in industrial, office, medical and agricultural applications. With history based on innovation, the company serves customers in more than 60 different countries. Of note in 2020, when Covid-19 created a shortage of medical equipment and supplies, Alliance Rubber Company joined with Canadian Manufacturers to provide rubber strips that were used to create millions of face shields for healthcare providers. In addition to this, Alliance has exported a significant volume of rubber bands for bundling medical devices and Covid-19 tests to customers in Asia.

**Export Awards/Recognition:** Alliance Rubber Company was the recipient of the Governor’s Excellence in Exporting Award for medium-sized manufacturers in Arkansas in 2013 and again in 2021. In 2015, the company was featured at the Arkansas business highlighted in the Department of Commerce’s “50 States of Trade for Export Success” publication.

Alpha Energy and Electric, Inc. (Missouri) - [https://www.alphaee.com/home](https://www.alphaee.com/home)

**Company Representative:** Emmanuel Ike Nwabuonwu, CEO - Ike.nwabuonwu@alphaee.com

**Company Overview:** Alpha Energy and Electric, Inc is an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) Company, that offers a broad range of engineering, procurement and construction services for commercial, institutional, governmental and industrial projects. The company has been part of some of the Kansas City region’s highest profile construction projects, to include - the new Kansas City International Airport, a $1.5 billion state of the art to be completed in 2023; Kansas City Downtown Streetcar; Jatan Power Plant; the Paseo Academy Solar Project - the single largest Solar (Photovoltaic) System Project in Kansas City; Sprint Center; Arrowhead Stadium; and Kauffman stadium, among a long list of others.

**Export Awards/Recognition:** Alpha Energy and Electric, Inc. has been recognized for number small business, minority business and rising star awards over the past 10-years. Most recently the company was recognized at the 2017 Kansas City Chamber International Small Business of the Year Award.
Bhatt International (Missouri) - http://www.bhattinternational.com/

Company Representative: Parth Bhatt, Director - pnb@bhattinternational.com and Darpan Bhatt, Director – dnb@bhattinternational.com

Company Description: Started in 1986, Bhatt International, Inc. is a trader and processor of recycled scrap metals, with the vast majority of its business focused on international trade. Currently Bhatt ships to nearly 150 customers in 16 countries. Bhatt deals in about seven different major nonferrous base metal as well as a few minor metals. The company is based in Kansas City, with an overseas office in India.

Export Awards/Recognition: Bhatt International appears on the 2021 Inc. 5000 list of Fastest Growing Private Companies in America. They were nominated by Kansas City World Trade Center to be a 2021 Mid America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree.

Bruckman Rubber Co. (Nebraska) - www.bruckman.com

Company Representative: Travis Turek, President - tturek@bruckmanrubber.com

Company Description: Located in Hastings, NE, Bruckman Rubber Co. provides customers with efficient and innovative solutions, and unmatched service in the delivery of part and tool design work to material selection and finishing. Vertically integrated to provide tooling, compounding, and molding, Bruckman takes ownership of every step of the process when it comes to providing rubber parts. With a 70-year operating legacy, Bruckman is recognized and respected as the “go-to” company for any customer who values quality products and excellent service at a great price.

Export Awards/Recognition: In 2018 Bruckman Rubber Co. was awarded the Nebraska Manufacturer of the Year Award. The company was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Nebraska SBDC.
Earth Science Laboratories (Arkansas) - https://earthsciencelabs.com/

**Company Representative:** Doug McKenzie, International Business Leader-
Dougmckenzie@earthsciencelabs.com

**Company Description:** Earth Science Laboratories (ESL) manufacturers advanced, sustainable chemistry for diverse industries and applications on a commercial scale. Many of ESL’s advances are working today to ensure a better tomorrow – from cleaner water to enhanced plant growth and higher crop yields. Currently, ESL is leading a global, multidisciplinary research and development program to characterize the unique properties of our chemistry and deploy them for practical purposes.

**Export Awards/Recognition:** Earth Science Laboratories was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Arkansas District Export Council (DEC).

Franklin Strap (Tennessee) - https://franklinstrap.com/

**Company Representative:** Gregory Lancaster, Co-Owner - gplancaster2@gmail.com

**Company Description:** Franklin Strap has been designing, manufacturing, and distributing premium guitar straps and the Glider Capo since 1999. The company’s consistent premium quality materials, timeless designs, and support from the most successful musical retailers in America, have made Franklin America’s go-to guitar strap brand.

**Export Awards/Recognition:** Franklin Strap was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Tennessee SBDC.
HCI ENERGY (Kansas) - https://hcienergy.com/

Company Representative: Ray Ansari, Founder & CEO – ray.ansari@hcienergy.com

Company Description: HCI ENERGY takes a revolutionary approach to delivering reliable, renewable energy on demand. The company's Hybrid Cube can power communities, telecom/public safety towers, military ops, disaster relief efforts and many other important initiatives more effectively. With plans to develop an extensive international footprint, the Hybrid Cube has been most recently exported to Nigeria and The Bahamas.

Export Awards/Recognition: HCI ENERGY was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Kansas SBDC.

Holtec Gas Systems, LLC (Missouri) - https://holtecllc.com/

Company Representative: Thorstein Holt, President - tholt@holtecllc.com

Company Description: Holtec is a manufacturer of membrane and PSA type nitrogen generators used to preserve food and beverages, prevent fires and explosions and a large number of other industrial applications. The company was founded in 1999 and makes Holtec branded and private labeled nitrogen generators. Holtec has customers in 34 different countries with Mexico and Canada currently being or main export markets. The company export sales have in many years exceeded 50%.

Export Awards/Recognition: Holtec Gas Systems received the “Global Growth Award” in 2014 from the World Trade Center in St. Louis and the “International Growth Award” in 2015 from Missouri Association of Manufacturers in recognition of their export expansion activities.
ISS (Illinois) – https://www.iss.com

Company Representative: Beniamino Barbieri, CEO – Beniamino.Barbieri@iss.com

Company Description: ISS started in 1984, with the long-term mission of developing high sensitivity time-resolved fluorescence instrumentation for research applications in areas such as biology, biophysics, biochemistry, chemistry, physiology and physics. ISS instruments are installed in universities and corporations (chemical; biochemical; pharmaceutical) worldwide, including several Universities in the United States, South America, Europe and Asia; corporations (Merck & Co., Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Unilever); hospitals (The Mayo Foundation, VA Administration); federal research institutions (National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Institutes of Health; Oak Ridge National Laboratories, National Space and Aeronautics Administration). In 2020 export sales counted for 40% of the company’s total revenue.

Export Awards/Recognition: ISS was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Illinois SBDC.

Leather Brothers inc. DBA Omnipet (Arkansas) - http://www.leatherbrothers.com/

Company Representative: Michael Schrekenhofer, General Manager - Michael@leatherbrothers.com

Company Description: Leather Brothers Inc. (DBA Omnipet) is a wholesale pet product manufacturer located in Conway, Arkansas. The business has been family owned & operated since 1976. Omnipet currently exports to countries such as Canada, Australia, Mexico, New Zealand, and various countries in Europe, the Caribbean, and South America. The company recently received the Rising Star award from Arkansas DEC for its export accomplishments, and recognition of its ability to remain afloat during the recent disruptions created by the pandemic. Omnipet transitioned a portion of its factory operations over to manufacturing fabric masks when they were needed the most, until its regular business began to take off again. As a result, the company not only survive the pandemic, but they thrived – thanks to the dedication and support of their employees.

Export Awards/Recognition: Leather Brothers was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Arkansas District Export Council (DEC).
Lubrication Engineers, Inc. (Kansas) - [https://www.lelubricants.com/](https://www.lelubricants.com/)

**Company Representative:** John Turner, Vice President of International Operations - [JD.Turner@LE-Inc.com](mailto:JD.Turner@LE-Inc.com)

**Company Description:** Lubrication Engineers, Inc. (LE) is a manufacturer of premium lubricants and reliability solutions which allow customers consistently achieve optimal performance from their most critical equipment. Headquartered in Wichita, KS, LE serves customers through a network of highly trained distributors in over 60 markets globally with a focus on Australia, South Africa, Chile, Scandinavia, Germany, UK, APAC & China

**Export Awards/Recognition:** Lubrication Engineers, Inc. was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by Kansas Global Trade Services.

RADIOLOGY Planning – [https://www.rad-planning.com/](https://www.rad-planning.com/)

**Company Representative:** Robert Junk, AIA, AHRA, President - [rjunk@RAD-Planning.com](mailto:rjunk@RAD-Planning.com)

**Company Description:** RADIOLOGY-Planning, is a global industry leader in Imaging Design services devoted to maximizing the value of complex medical imaging equipment through expert design services. Through careful equipment planning and facility layout, RADIOLOGY-Planning (RAD-Planning) improves technical / operational efficiencies and financial performance of imaging and therapy departments around the globe.

**Export Awards/Recognition:** RADIOLOGY-Planning was the recipient of the 2015 Missouri State Representatives Award, the Missouri State Senate Award and the Missouri Excellence in Business Award.
Shark OFF LLC (Kansas) - https://www.thesharkoff.com/

Company Representative: Shea Geist, CEO - bossmomma@thesharkoff.com

Company Description: Shark OFF takes proven shark repellent technology and embeds it in attractive, affordable jewelry. Shark OFF has provided security and freedom to beach vacationers in beautiful places around the world including the Bahamas, Australia, and the Caribbean.

Export Awards/Recognition: Shark OFF was nominated as a 2021 Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Kansas City World Trade Center.

The Steco Corporation Inc. / Tap Magic (Arkansas) - http://www.tapmagic.com/

Company Representative: Ken Gaines, CEO - kdgaines@tapmagic.com

Company Description: Started in 1953, The Steco Corporation produces professional grade industrial lubricants for metal cutting industries under the brand name Tap Magic. The company is based in Little Rock, AR. With a mature distributor base in the US, the company has added customers in new export countries every year for the past decade. Steco currently directly ships to 14 different countries. Additionally, they have an international distributor that ships anywhere in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Export Awards/Recognition: The Steco Corporation was nominated as a 2021 Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree by the Arkansas District Export Council.
Superior Products International II, Inc. (Kansas) - www.spicoatings.com

**Company Representative:** Joseph E. Pritchett, President/founder/Inventor - jepritchett@spicoatings.com

**Company Description:** Superior Products International II, Inc. is a R&D and manufacturer of insulation and corrosion preventive coatings. Coatings manufactured range from reflective (blocking 95% - tested radiation heat), pipes capable of holding 650C heat, vessels, heat exchangers and tanks (holding the heat on the surface and not allowing to escape); and corrosion protection products that can be applied directly over existing surface rust with minimum to no blasting prep.

**Export Awards/Recognition:** Company President, Joseph Pritchett has been invited to present for the for NACE (National Assoc. of Corrosion Engineers) in the Middle East, Europe, Russia, South America, and Asia, focusing on both insulation and corrosion prevention.

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Ultra-Tech Aerospace, Inc. (Kansas) - http://utaero.com/

**Company Representative:** Mark Edwards, Director of Sales and Customer Experience - medwards@utaero.com

**Company Description:** Ultra-Tech Aerospace, Inc (UTA) is a custom manufacturer specializing in commercial and military aerospace structures, components and assemblies. UTA supports a variety of local, national and international customers with cost effective manufacturing solutions, ensuring that quality and customer service are a top priority. Along with its domestic customers, UTA supports partners in Canada, Poland, Philippines, Sweden and France.

**Export Awards/Recognition:** In 2020, Ultra-Tech was awarded the Weida Award for International Small Business of the Year by the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. This award goes to a small business that recognizes the importance of entering the international marketplace and succeeds in creating a global footprint in the Kansas City region.
Past Outstanding Exporter Honorees in Attendance

Sunnen Products Company (Missouri) - www.sunnen.com

Company Representative: Tom Dustman, International Sales Director - tdustman@sunnen.com

Company: Sunnen Products Company is a family-owned business, based in St. Louis Missouri. Sunnen was founded in 1924 and has exported to industrialized countries around the world. Sunnen’s network of subsidiaries and independent distributors form a sales channel that delivers. Sunnen is a machine tool manufacturer, with a product offering that includes high precision bore finishing machines, tools, and abrasive products which yield ultra-high precision bore finishing for a wide variety of market sectors. The automotive industry, aerospace, defense, hydraulics, and medical devices are all examples of markets served by Sunnen Products Company.

Export Awards/Recognition: Sunnen Products Company is a President's E-Award and E-Star Award Recipient. The company is also a St. Louis Global Pioneer Award Winner. Sunnen has been recognized as an Outstanding Exporter Honoree as part of the Mid-America Trade Summit since the event inception in 2018.


Company Representative: David Shogren, President - Dave@usi-foods.com

Company: U.S. International Foods exports high quality food and grocery products made in the USA to retailers, distributors and e-commerce companies primarily in Asia. Serving some customers that hold a place within the "top 15" of global retailers, US International Foods currently has customers in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Philippines, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Israel, New Caledonia and the United Kingdom.

Export Awards/Recognition: Among other awards, U.S. International Food was originally recognized in 2019 as a Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter Honoree. The company was also recognized as the 2015 SBA Exporter of the Year for Eastern Missouri, and the Missouri Agricultural Exporter of the Year in 2014. David currently serves on the Trade Finance Advisory Council (appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce) and the Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee for Processed Foods (appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture).
AMEROC EXPORT INC. (Illinois) - www.Ameroc-Export.com

Company Representative: Sophia Fourzia Leguedi, President - sophia@ameroc-export.com

Company Description: AMEROC EXPORT INC. is an international trade company that specializes in exporting U.S.-made heavy equipment, industrial tires and automotive lubricants. The company serves export markets in North Africa, the Middle East, Central America and the Caribbean.

Export Awards/Recognition: Among other awards, AMEROC EXPORT INC. was recognized by SBA as the Illinois Exporter of the Year in 2016 and received the Export Achievement Certificate Award from the US Commercial Service that same year. The company was first recognized as a Mid-America Trade Summit Outstanding Exporter in 2020.

HAYES ABRASIVES

Hayes Abrasives, Inc. (Illinois) - www.hayesabrasives.com

Company Representative: David Hayes, President - hayes@wamusa.com

Company: Hayes Abrasives, Inc. commenced manufacturing operations at its current location in Hillsboro, Illinois in 1989. The company uses specialized technology to make very thin abrasive cutting discs that are utilized in the automotive, aerospace, electronics and electrical and textile machinery industries, among others. Within the past year, the company has exported product to Mexico, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Spain, South Korea, China, Japan and India.

Export Awards/Recognition: Hayes Abrasives was the recipient of the Illinois Governors Award for “New to Export” in 1995. The company first received recognition as an Outstanding Exporter Honoree at the 2019 Mid-America Trade Summit.
2020 Outstanding Exporter Honorees

- Vortex Surgical – Missouri
- Ag World International Corp
- Allen Engineering Corporation
- Ameroc Export, Inc.
- Champion Laboratories, Inc.
- Dazor Lighting Technology, LLC
- ECOJOHN
- Global Aviation Technologies, LLC
- Grasshopper Company (Moridge Manufacturing Inc.)
- InnovaPrep
- IVS (International Veterinary Supplies), Inc.
- MotorParts Nation
- Oscarware, Inc.
- Pacific Supply Co
- PT Coupling
- Pyramid Foods
- Sawyer Manufacturing Company
- SEVO Systems
- Stauder Technologies
- Two Rivers Fisheries, Inc.
- Vortex Surgical
- WW Cedar

2019 Outstanding Exporter Honorees

- 4B Components Ltd – Illinois
- Double D Mats – Kansas
- Elastec – Illinois
- Hayes Abrasives, Nc. – Illinois
- Kuder, Inc. - Iowa
- Link Electronics – Missouri
- Serola Biomechanical, Inc. – Illinois
- SEV-REND High Performance Packaging – Illinois
- Sunnen Products Company – Missouri
- U.S. International Foods – Missouri
2018 Outstanding Exporter Honorees

- Brewer Science – Missouri
- CCK Strategies – Oklahoma
- Clayton Agri-Marketing – Missouri
- Coneqtec Universal – Missouri
- Diamond V – Iowa
- Missouri Pacific Lumber – Missouri
- SCD Probiotic – Missouri
- SEV-REND High Performance Packaging – Illinois
- Smart Controls – Illinois
- Sunnen Products Company – Missouri
- TriCorps Technologies – Oklahoma
- Vacuworx – Oklahoma