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MASSECON ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR 18TH ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARDS

Companies From Across Massachusetts Selected for Job Growth; Investment; Expansion; Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; Community Engagement

WATERTOWN, MA – Fourteen companies from across the state have been selected as finalists for the 2021 Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards, MassEcon’s 18th annual celebration of firms for their outstanding contributions to the Massachusetts economy.

The finalists, spanning Greater Boston to Western Massachusetts, range in size and are drawn from cybersecurity, technology, life sciences, engineering, food and beverage, manufacturing and more.

MassEcon selected the finalists based on having a new operation in Massachusetts or expanded operations here resulting in added jobs and facility investment; social impact with community involvement/philanthropic efforts; and internal/external equity, diversity and inclusion practices. The finalists collectively have added more than 375 jobs to the Commonwealth, invested nearly \$3.9 billion, and expanded their facilities by 1.375 million square feet.

“The finalists for the 18th Mass Econ Impact Awards have demonstrated resilience and stamina while executing their growth objectives during a global pandemic. They all played an important role in the health and recovery of our economy here in Massachusetts,” said Denise McGeough, Chair of the MassEcon Board of Directors and Senior Vice President at Citizens. “We are excited to recognize their hard work and honor them for their contributions to the Commonwealth.”

On November 23, finalists will virtually present one-two minute pitch to a panel of judges and business leaders describing their growth in the Commonwealth.

“These employers represent exciting new economic opportunity in every region of Massachusetts,” said Pete Abair, Executive Director of MassEcon. “These finalist companies provide us cause to celebrate our incredibly dynamic state economy. “

Finalists compete on a regional basis in the West, Central, Southeast, Northeast, and Greater Boston areas. From the pool of finalists, gold, silver, and bronze winners will be selected by region. The winners from each of the five regions will be announced in advance of the awards event on April 7 at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough.

“I want to congratulate each of this year’s finalists, all of which seek to ensure the Commonwealth continues to foster an environment that is supportive of new and innovative ideas and helps us maintain our competitive economic edge,” said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy. “I also want to express my gratitude to the team at Mass Econ for their continuing efforts to grow the Massachusetts economy, invest in our workforce, and strengthen the communities that each of our companies call home.”

The companies chosen as finalists for the 18th Annual Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards:

GREATER BOSTON:

- **Boston Sword & Tuna – Boston:** *Priding itself on being "America's One-Stop-Shop for Seafood," Boston Sword & Tuna (BST) invested \$21.5 million in a 50K SF expansion in Boston's Seaport District that, at the time, employed 140 employees, and one year later, added 44 new employees. With roots going back over 80 years, and now working as a fifth generation Seafood company, BST partnered with Larry Dore with over 38 years of experience. The new, state-of-the art facility has a continuously controlled temperature monitoring system for maximum efficiency, a completely automated ozonated water system with both on and offsite monitoring for the proper sanitation of all rolling equipment, and several new safety features. The building is SQF certified, which is one of the highest standards in the industry. BST is now adding a 17K SF expansion that will be done in 2022 or early 2023, and the company hopes to hire another 15 employees.*
- **General Dynamics – Boston:** *General Dynamics Mission Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics (NYSE: GD), provides mission-critical solutions to defense, intelligence and cyber-security customers across all domains. Slated to be completed in September 2021, the company invested \$9.6 million in its 140K SF location in Dedham, renovating 19K SF of existing space and 18K SF of new space. Throughout this year, the company added 45 jobs through acquisition of new contracts.*
- **Prodrive Technologies – Canton:** *Founded in The Netherlands in 1993, Prodrive Technologies is a developer and manufacturer of high tech electronic and mechatronic systems, and has become a global player in various markets such as semiconductor, medical, and mobility. In 2020 Prodrive officially opened its North American headquarters in Canton after investing more than \$10 million into 53K SF of its facility. Prodrive has added more than 55 new jobs since 2019, with plans to expand its local R&D, service, and manufacturing adding another 54K SF, beginning within 2022.*

CENTRAL:

- **Lykan Bioscience – Hopkinton:** *Lykan Bioscience is an innovative, cell therapy focused contract development and manufacturing organization headquartered in Hopkinton, MA. With decades of biopharmaceutical industry experience, Lykan offers a full range of development and manufacturing services to leading biotechnology companies. Lykan is proud to have invested more than \$20 million in a 64,000 sq ft renovation and customization of its world-class, purpose-built, multi-product cell therapy manufacturing facility that includes eight independent ISO 7 cGMP manufacturing suites, cGMP warehousing, and full-service cGMP quality control labs, all of which are surrounded by an innovative workspace for the Lykan team and partners. Since January 2020, the company has added approximately 60 new jobs and is involved in the community by organizing employee volunteer programs, initiating student internship programs, and actively supporting local programs and organizations. Additionally, the company has an employee engagement team consisting of diverse nationalities, religions, and genders which is tasked with cultural awareness activities, an annual equity review and a biannual review of company demographics.*
- **Mustang Bio – Worcester:** *Mustang Bio, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Worcester, has a multi-disciplined team translating medical breakthroughs in cell and gene therapies into next-generation treatments for hematologic cancers, solid tumors, and rare genetic diseases. Since January 2020, the company has added 56 new jobs (50% women, 50% minority in 2020; and 53% women, 26% minority in 2021). Seventy percent of Mustang Bio's employees are engaged in the manufacturing process. The company invested approximately \$2.5 million in a 6K SF expansion in Worcester where it has the manufacturing expertise to develop and commercialize cell and gene therapies on a broad scale. Mustang Bio is committed to Worcester because of the GMP/life sciences environment and the desirability of the area to its employees. The company anticipates growing into a larger facility over the next 5-10 years.*

- **Olympus Corporation – Westborough:** *With a 100 year history, Olympus Corporation is a global technology leader, crafting innovative optic and digital solutions in medical technologies and life sciences– Olympus invested \$45 million in a 150K SF expansion in Westborough that will serve as the world headquarters for its therapeutics division, marking the company’s first world headquarters outside of Japan. Opening in Westborough in April 2021, the company added approximately 20 new jobs and chose the location based on its proximity to educational and medical institutions, an educated workforce, innovation culture, and sector strength. Olympus has 11 colleague affinity networks (CANs), mandatory D&I training, leadership training, racial conversation workshops, bias and allyship sessions, along with a D&I task force specific to the medical group business.*

NORTHEAST:

- **Analog Devices – Wilmington:** *For 56 years Analog Devices has been focused on solving its customers’ toughest engineering challenges. The company offers a portfolio of approximately 75,000 products, representing a range of industries, including industrial, communications, automotive, and serves more than 125,000 customers worldwide. Completed in January 2021, Analog Devices expanded its Wilmington campus by 447K square feet, where it constructed a new worldwide corporate headquarters with 1.4 MW of solar panels, state-of-the-art office and lab space, community hub, and parking garage. This brings most of its Massachusetts employees together onto one campus and adds approximately 50 new jobs. Analog Devices has a long history of community involvement and is dedicated to supporting local Wilmington programs. During the global pandemic, the Company dedicated manufacturing lines to increasing production of critical healthcare components and technology needed for the treatment of COVID-19 patients, launched the Analog Devices Foundation which provides support to COVID-19 relief efforts, and donated \$500,000 to the Massachusetts General Hospital’s Vaccine & Immunotherapy Center to help advance vaccine development and novel point-of-care testing technologies for COVID-19.*
- **Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute – Gloucester:** *Launched in 2013, the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute (GMGI) addresses critical challenges facing our oceans, human health and the environment through innovative scientific research and education. By bringing world-class science and transformative workforce development to Gloucester’s historic waterfront, GMGI is catalyzing the regional economy. GMGI has an entirely-female leadership team in their Board Chair, Executive Director and Science Director. In 2020, GMGI created an active and empowered DEI Committee, and has remained committed to bringing awareness to the organization. Since its founding, GMGI has enjoyed strong state, local and philanthropic support and recently invested \$1.546 million in a 3,200 SF expansion of its Gloucester Biotechnology Academy, completed in June 2021. Through the cutting-edge Academy program, GMGI prepares career-compromised young adults in the growing biomanufacturing, life sciences and biotechnology fields, filling a critical workforce gap in the Commonwealth. The recent expansion enables GMGI to grow the annual cohort from 20 to 40 students per year, and required the addition of several new staff members.*

WEST:

- **Big Y Foods, Inc. – Springfield:** *Founded in 1936 by brothers Paul and Gerald D’Amour, Big Y Foods, Inc. was named after an intersection in Chicopee, where two roads converge to form a Y. Now, it is one of the largest independently owned supermarket chains in New England with almost 12,000 employees and 85 locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. Since January 2020, the company added 52 new jobs and invested \$50.9 million in a 232K SF expansion in Springfield for its “Fresh & Local Distribution Center” that provides local farmers and producers with an efficient, one stop location that saves time and expenses related to delivering to individual stores. It also has the state-of-the-art technology and temperature controls to help Big Y maintain and deliver the peak of freshness to customers. Big Y partners with the Food Bank of Western Mass, Worcester and Boston, has numerous*

equity, diversity, and inclusion practices. It has been recognized by Forbes as a Best-in-State Employer in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and Employer of Choice by the Employers Association of the Northeast.

- **The White Lion Brewing Company – Springfield:** *The White Lion Brewing Company is a black-owned brewery that reactivated 8K SF of space that sat vacant for 15+ years and on-boarded an additional 3K SF of storage, marking a total expansion of 11K SF in Springfield and the first craft beer brand to go to market in Springfield. More than a brewer, White Lion intends to serve as a catalyst for Springfield’s revitalization. While still a small and growing company, White Lion added 13 new employees (69% women and 46% persons of color), donated close to \$25,000 to the community, and its ownership sits on a number of local and statewide boards or commissions. While there are more than 230 breweries in Massachusetts, White Lion is one of only six minority-owned breweries in the state, and nationally, there are over 8,300 breweries and less than 1% are black-owned. The Brewery was part of the international Black is Beautiful Campaign and committed a portion of the Campaign’s beer sales to the Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley. White Lion also hosted a collaboration beer to bring attention to the trade in the communities of color, with a portion of proceeds committed to Holyoke Community College to seed an annual scholarship program. Additionally, the company co-hosted a Sexual Harassment & Sensitivity Training for regional breweries.*
- **United Aircraft Technologies – Pittsfield:** *United Aircraft Technologies (UAT) is a veteran, minority, and female led business that is creating a new class of Smart Clamps for electrical wire harness management that is designed to reduce weight, improve safety, and simplify maintenance through the use of Augmented Reality and Artificial Intelligence. The company currently plans on investing in around 7,000 SF of vacant office space in Pittsfield and is looking to hire four new team members in 2021 in addition to the five already onboarded earlier this year. UAT is also providing STEM-based programs within the community, partnering with MCLA on future internship opportunities and further job creation. For vehicle manufacturers in aviation, navy, or ground vehicles who have a problem with weight and maintenance, UAT’s Interconnecting Clamp (ICC) is 65% lighter than the current metal standard and can reduce maintenance and installation time by up to 80%. Different from other wiring fasteners, UAT’s Smart ICC has sensing capabilities which allows customers to easily localize and diagnose faults within the wiring system, improving fault diagnostics by 150% and minimizing the reliance of visual inspection and risks of human error. Since founding in 2016 with seed funds, the company has won numerous innovation awards, most recently including two NASA iTech innovation challenges, and recently raised \$1.7 million in venture funding to support development activities and, with development partners, is a recipient of additional government contracts totaling over \$1 million this year alone. The company works with another Massachusetts company, Sinicon Plastics in Dalton, to manufacture its products.*

SOUTHEAST:

- **Alnylam Pharmaceuticals – Norton:** *Pharmaceutical manufacturer Alnylam Pharmaceuticals invested \$200 million in a 200K SF manufacturing facility in Norton, and is committed to adding 125 new jobs by 2025. Whether it is in the creation of a new class of medicines or in taking the lead on issues that impact their daily lives, Alnylam empowers people to innovate. With the leadership of Alnylam’s former President, in the Spring of 2020 Alnylam led a team that raised \$1.6 million for the American Heart Association (AHA) EmPOWERED to Serve initiative in Massachusetts, a program that engages multicultural communities and motivates community members to take steps toward creating a culture of health. These resources enabled the AHA to investigate the cardiovascular implications of Coronavirus, accelerate antiviral drugs to combat COVID-19, and teach hospitals and communities how to safely and effectively administer CPR during the pandemic. Bloomberg selected Alnylam for its Gender-Equity Index for 2021, and the company was recognized by the Eos Foundation in 2020 for gender parity and fair representation for Women of Color rankings at Executive and Board Leadership levels.*
- **NN, Inc. – Taunton:** *With a global scale, high-precision manufacturing, and comprehensive portfolio that consolidates supply chain and offers true one-stop shopping, NN, Inc. takes product from design through production, and provides total lifecycle support, to reduce costs and make it easier to do*

business. NN, Inc. 's products are found in commercial and military aircraft, general aviation, and defense systems. The company invested \$10 million and expanded its aerospace defense manufacturing plant from 25K to 100K SF. Being located in Taunton, offers a central location for its 81 employees and access to the local talent pool with vocational schools.

- **Waters Technologies Corporation – Taunton:** *For more than 60 years, Waters Corporation has been improving human and well-being through innovations in chromatography, mass spectrometry, thermal analysis instruments and software that serve the life, materials, and food sciences industries. In April of 2018, Waters announced a \$215 million investment to expand their precision chemistry manufacturing facility in Taunton, MA. Upon its completion in 2023, the facility will have expanded by 135K sf, added over 30 new employees, and is expected to be the only LEED certified chemical plant in Massachusetts. The significantly modernized facility will also decrease the annual volume of hazardous waste shipped off-site by 50%. In addition to their efforts in Taunton, Waters was recently recognized for their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the 2021 Corporate Equality Index, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's annual scorecard for LGBTQ workplace equality.*

Citizens is the Presenting Sponsor of the Eighteenth Annual Team Massachusetts Economic Impact Awards.

ABOUT MASSECON

MassEcon's mission is to promote and champion Massachusetts as the best place to start, grow and locate a business. Built upon a robust network of corporate and civic members, MassEcon convenes public and private sector leaders of industry to create an inclusive business ecosystem that enhances job growth across a diverse talent pool; promotes investment in all communities; expands equitable opportunities throughout the Commonwealth. www.massecon.com.

ABOUT Citizens Financial Group, Inc.

Citizens Financial Group, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest financial institutions, with \$179.2 billion in assets as of September 30, 2020. Headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, Citizens offers a broad range of retail and commercial banking products and services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, large corporations and institutions. Citizens helps its customers reach their potential by listening to them and by understanding their needs in order to offer tailored advice, ideas and solutions. In Consumer Banking, Citizens provides an integrated experience that includes mobile and online banking, a 24/7 customer contact center and the convenience of approximately 2,700 ATMs and approximately 1,000 branches in 11 states in the New England, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions. Consumer Banking products and services include a full range of banking, lending, savings, wealth management and small business offerings. In Commercial Banking, Citizens offers a broad complement of financial products and solutions, including lending and leasing, deposit and treasury management services, foreign exchange, interest rate and commodity risk management solutions, as well as loan syndication, corporate finance, merger and acquisition, and debt and equity capital markets capabilities. More information is available at www.citizensbank.com or visit us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#).

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