

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier University



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Klaus Woerner of ATS wins Laurier award for business leadership

Waterloo, Ont. (Jan. 26) — Klaus Woerner, president and chief executive officer of Automation Tooling Systems Inc. (ATS) in Cambridge, has been named recipient of the Laurier Outstanding Business Leader Award for 1994.

Under Embargo Until Thursday, Jan. 26

The award is presented annually by the School of Business and Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo to a person who has demonstrated superior management leadership in the field of business administration. It is based on accomplishments in the economic and business world, impact on the community, and future contributions to business.

Woerner will receive the award on Thursday, Jan. 26, at the school's annual awards reception at 4 p.m. in the Paul Martin Centre. He will address the gathering of local business leaders, award sponsors, and about 50 students who will be presented with scholarships. The reception will begin at 4 p.m.

Alex Murray, dean of the school, says, "Through his entrepreneurial drive, determination and commitment, Woerner has built ATS into the largest and fastest growing company in its field in North America."

(More)

A tool and die maker by trade, the German native, immigrated to Canada in 1960. He graduated from Ryerson Polytechnical University in 1971 with a degree in industrial engineering.

Woerner founded ATS in 1978 as a small producer of special purpose equipment. He has pioneered the field of industrial automation and has become a recognized leader in the development and application of industrial automation technology.

Today, ATS is an international leader in automated systems integration with revenues exceeding \$100 million. ATS employs more than 900 people worldwide with Automation Systems Divisions in Cambridge, Ont.; Columbus, Ohio; and Simi Valley, California, and in the past year acquired Accu-Fab Systems in Corvallis, Oregon and has opened another division in Berlin, Germany. There is also a Precision Metal Components Division and a Precision Plastic Components Division in Kitchener.

The company sells its systems to customers in the automotive, electronic, computer, medical, telecommunications, and consumer goods industries. ATS automation systems are used around the world to manufacture products such as automotive and appliance motors, anti-lock brakes, emission control devices, printed circuit boards, computer keyboards and printer heads, video cassettes, disposable medical devices, and telephones for the American, Canadian, European, and Mexican markets.

"A major part of ATS' success," says Murray, "is its belief that if you work in partnership with the customer, you will be able to produce and deliver quality products."

Previous winners of the Laurier Outstanding Business Leader Award are Larry Zepf, Val O'Donovan, James Beingessner, Eileen Mercier, David Gee, Betty Sims, Patrick Forde, and Hugh Sloan.