



GKN Rockford, Inc.

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GKN Rockford Receives Supplier Accreditation from Caterpillar

GKN Rockford, part of the Drive Line Systems group of GKN OffHighway, today announced that it has received certification as a SILVER level supplier from Caterpillar for their SQEP (Supplier Quality Excellence Process) Program.

In order for a supplier to be awarded certification by Caterpillar, stringent supplier performance targets for specified categories must be met. The categories include: delivery performance, PPM levels, 6-sigma deployment, capacity planning and engineering excellence.

Owen Loughrin, PCE for CAT's Driveline Components and Torque Converter Group, had this to say about the certification: "We recognize supplier quality excellence. That is the foundation of Caterpillar's Supplier Quality Excellence Process. Caterpillar's core suppliers play an integral role in driving a "Zero-Defect" mentality into our supply chain management processes and culture. As we collaboratively drive initiatives that result in breakthrough quality improvements, Caterpillar must recognize those suppliers who are utilizing systems and processes that produce results that meet/exceed our expectations.

The Supplier Quality Excellence Process allows Caterpillar to recognize supplier quality excellence; while clearly communicating expectations for a world-class supply base. GKN Rockford's recognition as a Silver level supplier distinguishes them as an outstanding supplier with quality and delivery performance that meets those stringent expectations.

Caterpillar's goal is to achieve 70 percent of total spend and 100 percent of spend with core suppliers recognized as Bronze or higher certification by year-end 2010. Moving forward, SQEP certification will be condition of doing business for those core suppliers. It is appropriate that GKN has aligned their internal goals to achieve SQEP.



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It has been a pleasure working with GKN Rockford over the past two years as they first achieved Bronze certification in 2008 and further improved year on year to a Silver recertification in 2009. I have seen many improvements during that period and congratulate GKN Rockford on this recognition.”

Bill Heffernan, Plant Manager at GKN Rockford (Loves Park, Illinois, USA) commented: “Last year we worked very hard to achieve the Bronze Certification. But the entire team here at Rockford was insistent upon moving our performance up a notch to meet the more stringent Silver level requirements. Achieving this recognition as a top level supplier to Caterpillar affirms our continuous improvement focus. I would like to thank the entire GKN Rockford team for their continued extraordinary efforts and commitment, which has enabled us to achieve this level of certification.”

Thomas Roethig, Managing Director for GKN OffHighway’s Drive Line Systems group commented “This award is an excellent indication that we are on the right track for becoming the supplier of choice to our key customers through our lean enterprise activities and a team of passionate and committed people!”

CAT and GKN Rockford employees shared a joint celebration and lunch at the plant in order to commemorate this achievement. After some brief speeches by CAT, GKN and UAW representatives, Dave Carter (VP CI and Lean Supply Chain), Mike Higgs (Local 803 President), and Marty Bowers (Quality Manager) accepted the award on behalf of the plant.

