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Contacts:

Kevin Schwab
(315) 422-8284
kschwab@mda-cny.com

ESD Press Office
(716) 856-8111
www.nylovesbiz.com

ESDC ANNOUNCES G.A. BRAUN EXPANSION

MAP Grant Provides Support for New Facility at Hancock Airpark

Syracuse, NY – At a press conference held today at Hancock Airpark Daniel Gundersen, chairman of Upstate Empire State Development Corp. announced that G.A. Braun would relocate their Syracuse headquarters to Hancock Airpark with a completion date anticipated in 2008. Gundersen was joined by James B. Werner, president of G.A. Braun and local dignitaries to make the announcement that 80 jobs would be retained and another 40 jobs would be pledged over the next three years.

The company plans to spend \$10 million to acquire land in the Airpark and to build a new, state of the art, manufacturing facility to house their Syracuse operations. The company was the recipient of a \$600,000 Manufacturing Assistance Program (MAP) capital grant to help offset the costs of new machinery and equipment required for the expansion.

“G.A. Braun serves as the perfect example of the type of company that our MAP program can help,” stated Daniel Gundersen, chairman of Upstate Empire State Development. “We are pleased to welcome them to the Hancock Airpark and look forward to the opportunity of bringing 40 new jobs to Central New York.”

“G.A. Braun is proud to grow in the community that we’ve called home for six decades,” said J.B. Werner, president and CEO of G.A. Braun. “I want to thank Governor Spitzer, Dan Gundersen and Empire State Development Corporation as well as Onondaga County and the Metropolitan Development Association for their roles in making this expansion possible.”

G.A. Braun markets laundry equipment world-wide to hospitals, hotels, cruise ships, commercial laundries and government and correctional facilities, among others. The 61-year old company designs its stand-alone products and fully-automated systems to meet and exceed productivity and capacity requirements of laundry facilities world-wide. The company is recognized as a leader in the design, build and automation of laundry and textile processes. Braun is unique in its complete offering of products and services, and is the only U.S. based manufacturer and supplier of processing equipment for the markets served.

Nick Pirro, Onondaga County Executive stated, "Onondaga County and our Industrial Development Agency are proud to support outstanding manufacturing firms such as G.A. Braun in staying and expanding here in Onondaga County. The Hancock Airpark site is becoming the home to companies with exciting expansion capabilities thus creating new jobs for our area."

"I congratulate G.A. Braun for its commitment to the Central Upstate region and for seeing the benefits of expanding here," said Irwin L. Davis, president and CEO of the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse and CNY. "I would also like to applaud the aggressiveness of ESDC, led by its new chairman, Dan Gundersen, in recognizing and responding to this great opportunity for the region."

The New York State Manufacturing Assistance Program can assist resident manufacturers, employing 50 to 1,000 workers, by investing in capital projects that significantly improve their productivity and competitiveness by providing grants up to \$1 million. Job creation is not required to obtain MAP funding, but may be a positive consequence. For further information manufacturers can contact Empire State Development at 1-800-STATE-NY or www.nylovesbiz.com.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, encompassing business, workforce and community development. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information, visit www.nylovesbiz.com.

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