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November 4, 2011

Northern Iowa Die Casting, Inc. is excited to announce the purchase of the building and paint, powder coating and metal finishing equipment from Aero Powder Coating & Manufacturing, located at 2712 16th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa. This acquisition adds over 21,000 square feet of manufacturing space and a modern paint line with an enclosed overhead monorail, 5 stage wash system, dry-off oven, dry filter paint booth, electrostatic powder paint guns and final cure oven.

"We had used Aero Powder for several years to paint die castings for several different customers. While they had always done a good job for us, when we found they were interested in selling their building and equipment, we saw it as a great opportunity to bring this capability in-house," noted Jeff Skalbeck, General Manager for NIDC. "This new capability and additional space improves our position for future growth with current and new customers. It also allows us to re-arrange processes to improve efficiency and quality on current products.

Northern Iowa Die Casting, Inc. was started in 1938 and purchased by Joanne Stockdale in 1983. In 1992, the company relocated from Milford, Iowa to a new facility in Lake Park, Iowa. Since that time it has grown to 50,000 square feet, which include offices, manufacturing and warehouse space. NIDC has gone from a couple of old and outdated hot chamber machines producing small zinc parts to a modern facility with 10 die casting cells ranging from a 150 ton hot chamber machine producing small zinc parts up to 800 ton cold chamber machines producing large aluminum parts. Each die casting cell includes a furnace, automatic ladle and die spray, quench equipment and a trim press. In addition, the facility contains a vibratory deburring department, CNC lathes and mills, conventional machining and assembly cells.

"Joanne has always been bold. She's unafraid to try new things and invest in our business to improve the level of service to our customers. Over the years, we have changed from selling simple die cast parts to increasing the services and value we provide our customers, which ranges from up front design support to providing fully machined, assembled and painted assemblies directly to their assembly lines," stated Jeff Skalbeck. Joanne's leadership and the company's strong growth were recognized when she was named Iowa's Small Business Person of the Year and the National Runner-up in 2003.