

**IMAGINE INNOVATION**

**THE  
CHALLENGERS'  
Award**®



**WINNERS**  
from 1966 to 2016

# THE CHALLENGERS' Award<sup>®</sup>

At the International Furniture and Woodworking Supply Fair that took place in 1966 at the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, one of the attractions was the "Hall of Tomorrow" and featured the Furniture Factory of the Future. Associated with the "Hall of Tomorrow", was a new awards program called the "Challenge to Change" Awards which recognized exhibiting companies for new and innovative methods in manufacturing and production.

In 1970 the competition was renamed the Challengers Award<sup>®</sup> and has since become known throughout the world for recognizing outstanding companies who have distinguished themselves by developing innovative technology in products, services, or manufacturing techniques that will advance the industry.

The now familiar Challengers Award<sup>®</sup> Sculpture was designed for the International Woodworking Fair by Artist Carol Marks. It is intended to symbolize man's aspirations and stages of endeavors. The spiral formed base is a portrayal of a constant flowing upward motion representing efforts and attainment. The three figures signify the striving for full attainment with full attainment achieved by the figure on top of the spiral.



## 1966

- A high-density urethane foam cushioning called "Richlux" won the honor for **E.R. Carpenter Co.**
- **Ekstrom, Carlson & Co.** won for a "continuous path" tape-controlled router. The machine's development began in 1962.
- Creative research in the development of automatic gluing and assembly for drawers won an award for **R.S. Brookman, Ltd.**
- **Roberts Consolidated Industries**, Bechtold Division, won for an innovative wrap-around veneer technique. Working with Drexel Industries, it developed an automated laminating system.
- The Porteromatic 933-D automatic router with electronic optical tracer won recognition for **C.O. Porter Machinery Co.**
- The first automatic cushion boxing and zipper closing machine claimed the honor for **Apex Machines.**
- **Southern Railway Co.** received an award "for the most progressive attitude in the solution of transportation problems unique in furniture."

## 1968

- Versatron Division of **American Machine and Foundry** received an award for a fully automated programmed robot for use with woodworking machinery.
- **DuPont Co.** won for a new "Teflon-S" coating on saw blades, wood bits and cutting tools for friction-free operation.
- From Austria, **Zuckermann Co.** won an award for an automatic transfer machine, which completed 17 individual operations and could relieve up to six workers for other duties.
- **F. Mayer & Schwabedissen** of West Germany won for its automated panel saw that trimmed four sides of a board at one time, breaking foam material into irregular sections.
- An automatic stacking machine won an award for the West German company **Heinrich Wemhoner K.G.**
- **Michael Weinig K.G.** of West Germany was honored for its automatic moulder that combined several operations into one.
- The VDMA, **West German Woodworking Machinery Assn.**, received the award for a combined automated veneering and machining line.

## 1970

First order of business was the presentation of the renamed Challengers Awards. There were 68 firms vying for the award. Four of the seven winners were recognized for devices that controlled either air or noise pollution.

- **The East Asiatic Co.** won for its modular dust extraction system. It cleaned dust from the air and returned it to where it was taken without forcing waste materials into the air or allowing heat out.
- An inserted carbide tooth cutterhead won for **Oliver Machinery Co.** The manufacturer anticipated that at least a million board feet of lumber could be finished before the cutterhead needed to be resharpened.
- **Rees-Memphis** was recognized for its electronic control system, which enabled a conical steel incinerator to operate within the limitations of pollution standards.
- **The Singer Co.'s** integrated sewing unit was credited as having made a "breakthrough" with its direct drive and instant stop and speed control.
- **Industrial Woodworking Machine Co.** Inc. won for its select chain-feed gang rip saw with a memory system that pre-selected lumber for grade, with a chain feed and overhead telescoping arbor.
- **Mobay Chemical Co.** won for producing manufacturing systems for duromer structural urethane and for cold-cure flexible urethane foams for furniture components.
- **Southern Abrasives** won an award for an integral woodworking machinery production system to make furniture parts with a minimum amount of labor.

## 1972

- **Oliver Machine Co.** won high praise in Louisville for its computerized cutoff saw.
- **Fukami Co. Ltd.** of Japan was recognized for the performance of its electronically controlled, fully automatic coping bandsaw.
- A mold sander made by **Fletcher Tolbert Machine Co.** won for the sander's labor and cost savings.
- **Clipper Abrasives** won for the Quick-Kut sanding wheel, which sanded and shaped parts, eliminating up to four operations.
- An ultraviolet curing system for finishing won for **Ashdee Div./George Koch Sons.**
- Also winning a Challengers Award in 1972 was **ISM Corp.**, Polytherm Div.
- **Apex Sewing Machine Co.** won for its upholstery gathering machine. Apex also won in 1966.

## 1974

The 1974 International Fair was co-sponsored by the National Assn. of Furniture Manufacturers and the Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers of America and was held in Louisville. WMMA reported that its New Dimensions program had gained momentum with the joining of WMMA and NAFM to co-sponsor the fair.

- **Newman Machine Co. Inc.** won for its Quietcut cutterhead that combined noise reduction and longer life with the capability of in-place sharpening.
- A numerical control system for double-end tenoning machines with its reduced setup time and 40 axes of cutting adjustments won for **Greenlee Bros. & Co.**
- Two **TRW** divisions, United Carr and Nelson, won for designing and developing a staple T-nut system — a T-nut fastener and the machine that installs it.
- **Maschinenfabrik Zuckermann** of Austria won for the Optima, an eight-spindle copying machine with a sanding unit. It shaped and finished irregularly formed parts.
- **Automated Building Components** won for its gang-nail coil-fed woodwelder system, designed to replace gluing, doweling and fingerjointing.
- **Apex Sewing Machine Co.**, working with Martin Mechanic, received its third Challengers Award for its "no button" button machine.

## 1976

Attendance at the Louisville Fair topped 21,000, with 603 exhibits. There were 90 exhibitors from outside the United States. Automated finishing systems seemed to attract the most attention.

- The Grand Award winner was the **Thermwood** Cartesian 5, a five-axis tool carrier, designed for routing, cutting, drilling and shaping. The carrier held one boring bit, one saw blade and two router bits.
- The **Ransburg** Electrostatic Reciprocating Disk finishing system drew the most attention. New sensitizing solutions to make wood electrically conductive had recently been developed.
- Another award-winning automated finishing system was the **DeVilbiss** self-programming robot. A skilled spray-gun operator showed the robot how to perform a sequence. The action is stored on tape, and the robot can repeat it indefinitely.
- The Evans multiple rip saw won. It cut widths from 1-1/2 to 50 inches, and made up to five cuts in one pass.
- **Michael Weinig's** system Rondamat 920 for sharpening moulder cutterheads without jointing won. The grinding machine head was attached by pumping in grease under high pressure.
- **Camsco** won an award in 1976 for its waterjet cutters.
- **Gerber Garment Technology** won for a numerically controlled high-speed knife cutter.

## 1978

- **Wesflex Corp.** won an award for the WR-1400-2, an automatic cutting, edging and shaping machine. One operator could run one or more machines.
- **C.R. Onsrud** won for the Intri-Shaper, a spiral cutting tool chucked at both ends, held in tension and rotated at 25,000 rpm.
- **Michael Weinig** won again, this time for its knife profiling machine, which included a template and guaranteed that all knives would have exactly the same profile.
- **Moldow Dust Control Inc.** won for its Flamex spark detection and extinguishing system with the ability to detect and extinguish the source of a fire before it could reach a filter or silo.
- **Conway-Cleveland Corp.** won for its Tallymaster electronic lumber measurement system, which automatically measured board footage of lumber passing beneath it.
- **BJK Industries Inc.** won for its upholstery cushion-filling machine, which vacuum-filled cushions.

## 1980

Energy savings and worker safety, as well as inflation and energy costs were issues for equipment manufacturers exhibiting at the show. In its August 1980 issue, FDM offered a detailed visitor's guide to Louisville by Faith Alberg, a native of the city.

- The **Onsrud** Model 2027 inverted router won for its improved safety features, simplicity of form and safety of operation.
- **Thermwood** won for its servo-controlled six-axis continuous path robot arm designed primarily for spray painting. The Series Six included the robot, control system and a hydraulic power unit.
- **AEM's** Acro-Planer, a rough lumber abrasive planer, automatically center-line feeds and surfaces every board so whatever stock is removed, one half comes from each side.
- A new trim look FDR Router-Moulder by **Wadkin** was a four-part system including the machine itself, an integral sound enclosure, special tooling and a profile grinder.
- **Small Wonder Inc.'s** new approach to dust control, the Air Purification via Simulated Emission of Electrons (APSEE) was designed to reduce ambient dust by changing the electric polarity of the plant environment.
- **Thermal Engineering** won for its oven concept that used propeller fans in an oven enclosure. The increased efficiency came from replacing heat with turbulence.

## 1982

IWF 82 was held Sept. 11-14 in Louisville for the last time with more than 700 exhibitors from more than 50 countries. The Italian exhibit was the largest, with 40 firms taking part in the 27,000-square-foot exhibit. Jimmy Carter visited the Italian exhibit. The show's ad slogan was: The industry's best. For the best in industry. (That's you!)

- **Barr-Mullin** won for its Compu- Gauge, which calculated how to get the highest yield out of any clear area.
- The Constant Tool System from **Michael Weinig** won for its design reducing downtime and keeping adjustments to table plates, side fences, pressure bars and guides to a minimum.
- **Wilhelm Grupp** won for its copying, shaping and sanding machine capable of carrying out longitudinal and transverse operations. The system was developed to allow rounding off of one of two ends of a workpiece.
- **Campbell Automation** won for its computer-aided programmer for a router/shaper/bound machine for use with its XYZ work center. It generated the profile of the part in computer language and wrote the program to run the machine.
- **The T-square Saw Fence System** won for Biesemeyer Manufacturing Corp. This sawing guide was designed to reduce conventional saw fence set-up time.
- **Linden International** won for its Sandomatic, designed to simplify setup and reduce operator error. Changes from floating to rigid sanding were made with the turn of a knob.

## 1984

Despite the increased display room available at the Georgia World Congress Center, every square foot of space was used by IWF in 1984 as the show moved to Atlanta. Sponsored by WMMA, AFMA and WMIA, the show drew comments from exhibitors pleased with the lack of red tape and ease of setting up displays at the new location. Zuckermann won for its ZUMA, Zuckermann Universal Machining Automat, a CNC machining center that combined as many as a dozen individual functions.

- **Newman-Whitney** received an award for its S-282 double planer, which featured automatic cut control, a device that eliminated the fixed bottom head cut.
- The WBC-60 widebelt cleaner from **Abrasive Belt Master** won. It was designed to clean belts automatically near a sander for operator convenience.
- **Adler** won for its Model 457 FA 373 G medium-duty single-needle high-speed sewing machine.
- **Martin Mechanic**, in its U.S. debut at IWF, won for its two-station MPA 1539 Upholstery Automaton machine for flat seats.
- **Gerber Garment Technologies** received an award for its Gerber cutter S-91, a computerized fabric-cutting system with vacuum holddown.

## 1986

- **Homag** won for its Homatic Electronic Control System, for either an edgebander or panel saw. The system could control a complete line of up to seven machines with different functions.
- **Barr-Mullin** won for its Compu-Rip ripping decisions computer. The operator moved two laser lines and the computer determined how the board would enter the rip saw.
- **Mereen-Johnson Machine Co.'s** Select-A-Rip Saw used a center bearing and moved with a ball screw driven by a DC motor, instead of a blade sliding on a shaft.
- **Paolino Bacci**, represented by Richard T. Byrnes Co. Inc., won its first award for its model TSD/CSF double-end tenoner with hopper feed.
- **James L. Taylor Mfg. Co.** developed a programmable automated clamp carrier. Clamps could be tightened and loosened automatically through a programmable controller.
- **Simpson Products Inc.** won for its Pro-Kleen widebelt abrasive belt cleaning system, which could clean a belt in less than a minute and is used while the sander is running.

## 1988

The 1988 IWF occupied 460,000 square feet of exhibit space, spilling over into the lobbies, ballrooms and meeting rooms at the Georgia World Congress Center. Approximately 34,093 woodworking executives attended the fair, an increase of 10 percent over the 1986 total. International attendance increased 46 percent from 1986.

- Turbosand, a subsidiary of **Voorwood Co.**, won for its rotary profile sanding system consisting of an abrasive attached to a strip of segmented plastic die-formed to the correct contour.
- A moulder by **Dimter Harbs GmbH** with tool-holding carousels and robotic arms to change tools automatically made quick setup times a winner.
- **Onsrud Cutter's** solid ceramic router bit that runs cool won for its ability to work at speeds between 18,000 and 25,000 rpm with feed rates of 200 to 500 ipm in a fixed router.
- **Accu-Feed** won for its automated lumber feeding system for the rough mill, presented by Buss Automation. A 16-foot-long movable fence, laser lights and controller worked together.
- **Weyerhaeuser** won with Heartwood, an engineered lumber product produced from strands of thin lumber to give the appearance of solid hardwood.
- The OptiSizer by **James L. Taylor Manufacturing Co.** won for its ability to select boards of random widths from 1 to 6 inches and combine them into panels of a desired width.
- **Reinhold Hess GmbH** won for its automatic cabinet door press, a clamp that adjusted itself for different sizes of doors, with automatic length sensing and nailers. The machine could process from 1,200 to 2,000 doors per shift.

## 1990

The 1990 IWF increased its exhibitors by 100 companies, exhibit space by 3.5 percent and saw a 3 percent drop in buyer attendance. A record 121 entries were reviewed for the Challengers Award.

- **GPM Technologies Ltd.** won for its Digipro 3-D digitizing and machining software that used a CNC router with a touch probe to digitize a three-dimensional pattern.
- **Michael Weinig Inc.** received its fifth Challengers Award for its Rondamat 935 grinder designed to simplify the production of templates. It ground planing and profile knives, while following a template.
- **Biesse America** won for its Crossmatic 120 crosscutting machine, the first saw developed by Biesse, which had primarily been a boring machine manufacturer.
- For the second time **Dimter GmbH** won, this time for the Optimax lumber scanner system, a machine system for four-sided defecting and sorting of lumber.
- Saw blade producer **DML Inc.** won for its Golden Eagle blades with tips of Dyanite, a patented carbide compound. The new blade lasted two to three times longer than conventional carbide blades.
- **Forcam Inc.** won for the Camcut 90, an automated, single-ply, fabric cutup system designed to duplicate manual cutting and reduce cutting time.
- The membrane moulding press by **Wemhoener America** won for its ability to completely process three-dimensional panels in one cycle.

## 1992

There were 21 finalists in the 1992 Challengers Awards competition as the industry moved out of the early 1990's recession.

- **Timesavers Inc.'s** high-efficiency dust hood won. The dust hood could reduce airborne dust concentration by 70 percent.
- **Biesse America** won its second consecutive award for the Selco WNA angular saw with shuttle system and three independent stations.
- **Hymmen International** won the award for its MTC-1400 Multi-Coater curtain coater and was recognized as one of three winners that contributed significantly to the environment.
- **Heesemann**, in conjunction with European Woodworking, won for its patented CSD pressure bar sanding system.
- **Barr-Mullin** won a third time for its Wonder Saw, a full-featured optimizing chop saw with a small footprint.
- **Modulus 2000 Machinery Inc.** won for its scoring unit attachment that fit most 10-inch table saws and enabled them to cut double-sided panels without chipping or tearout.
- **Swift Adhesives** won for its 49200 formulation produced to reduce solvent emissions generated by the foam fabricating industry.

## 1994

Breaking records was the theme at the 1994 show. Attendance was up 24.9 percent over IWF 1992, also a record-breaking year. The show broke exhibit space records — 618,420 square feet used by 1,079 companies. Ray Helmers, founding editor and former publisher of FDM, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award during the Challengers Awards presentation.

- Winning its fifth Challengers Award in 25 years, **Barr-Mullin Inc.** was recognized for its Cell Scan wood inspection system, which could detect defects in wood even under dirt and grime.
- **Newman Whitney** got its third win with its Servo Sleeve system that converted a sleeved type gang rip saw into an all-moving-blade type gang rip saw.
- **Ogden Enterprises Inc.'s** Rotoles rotary milling machine, designed as an alternative to conventional or abrasive planing, made a clean cut on work pieces as short as two inches.
- **Grecon Inc.** won for its Superscan Color wood inspection system, which identified board characteristics, fed the information into a computer and then performed three-dimensional rotational optimization.
- **Onsrud Cutter's** solid carbide compression spiral router bit won for its ability to cut double-sided laminated particleboard without chipping.
- **Zintexx Corp.** won for its Zintexx 5200 dry abrasive cleaning system, which offered an environmentally sound alternative to liquid cleaning.
- **Carter Products** won for its upgraded Flip-Pod vacuum workholding system, which kept workpieces in place on CNC routers and point-to-point boring machines.

## 1996

The 1996 IWF was dubbed the Atlanta Advantage. Although attendance was 42,942, down slightly from 1994, major machine manufacturers reported that they sold more equipment at this show. Companies catering to small professional shops also saw more business.

- **Great Lakes Carbide Tool Mfg. Inc.** won for its Great-Loc Insert System, a no-gib rotary cutter with integral clamping members for securing inserts in safety grooves in the cutter.
- Homag's KL 79 Edge Filler and Foil Transfer Machine won because it enabled manufacturers to use particleboard for new applications. It created a smooth, sealed edge on particleboard.
- **CESYS** won for its color sorting system for lumber, a joint project developed by Group Seven Systems in cooperation with Virginia Polytechnic & State University and Nova Technologies.

- **Western Cutterheads** won for its Hydrosleeve Rotary Lathe Tooling CS96, designed for profile grinding instead of hand grinding, enabling manufacturers to use CAD patterns and templates for setting and grinding knives.
- **Norton Co.** won for its aluminum-oxide abrasive. Its SG Belts were developed with a seeded-gel ceramic aluminum oxide grain, a high-purity abrasive.
- The **Voorwood** L73 Contour Foiler Drive Mechanism won for its ability to maintain consistent pressure against any shape profile.
- **ITW DeVilbiss' OMX** Ergonomic Spray Gun offered light weight and comfortable grip, and was designed to combat the risk of painters developing cumulative trauma disorders.

## 1998

IWF 98 had 670,000 square feet of exhibitor space, 300 categories of products and live demonstrations of equipment and materials. The New Product Showcase displayed outstanding machinery, equipment, supplies and services.

- The **IMA America Corp.** won for its Combiform Throughfeed Profile Contour Edgebander designed to band complex and curved parts with a rapid setup.
- **Cabinet Vision's** Solid Professional software won. It has the ability to perform functions from design to machine integration, generating drawings, cutlists, assembly sheets, costing and bidding information, panel optimization and DXF files.
- Abralon abrasive discs from **Mirka Abrasives Inc.** won. They are constructed of mesh fabric coated with closely sized abrasive particles bonded to a fabric face and laminated to foam with a cloth backing.
- **Morton International** won for its Lamineer powder coatings and received special recognition for contributing to the improvement of the environment.
- **Resource Recycling** was recognized for its contribution to the improvement of the environment as well as winning for its reusable paint booth filter.
- The Tip-Servo-Drive system from **Altendorf America** won for its ability to move heavy workpieces across the saw table with finger-touch sensitivity.
- **Wemhoner America** won for its Vario Pin Support System, which replaced the traditional method of a riser board to lift the workpiece from the table to allow the vinyl or foil to wrap around edges of the workpiece.

## 2000

IWF 2000 was held at the Georgia Dome and the Georgia World Congress Center to accommodate the 1,291 exhibiting companies, 706,007 net square feet of exhibit space and attendees from 88 countries. The sold-out show featured 202 new exhibitors and hosted eight technical conference sessions.

The Challengers Award had 77 entries from 66 companies.

- **Giben America Inc.** won for its PM System panel saw moving grippers, designed to increase efficiency, flexibility and reduce material damage.
- The MAW/Nottmeyer model Q-DB CNC cross-feed drilling machine by **IMA America Corp.** won for its faster setup times and flexibility in processing small and large batch sizes.
- **Koch Ltd. Machinery & Systems** won for the Prima Pade CNC double-end tenoner, a five-axis machine which did any shape and size tenon without the need for a template or manual adjustment.
- The Profile Center Unimat 3000 Brillant, by **Michael Weinig Inc.**, won for its tooling system incorporated into a moulder which secured the cutterhead with a clamping device.
- **Raimann USA** won for its Optimizing Rip Saw with hydro.
- The scene stealer at this show was the SawStop Safety System for tables saws by **SawStop, LLC.**, a safety device designed to stop a saw blade immediately if it came into contact with a user's hand.
- **Southeastern Adhesives Co.** won for its Protact laminating adhesive, an environmentally friendly, water-based adhesive that contained no VOCs and could be roll-coated or spray-applied.

## 2002

This year IWF experienced a major expansion with an additional 420,000 square feet added to the Georgia World Congress Center for exhibitors. Use of the Georgia Dome was no longer necessary and exhibitors had a total of 1.4 million square feet of exhibit space, 12 exhibit halls, 105 meeting rooms, two ballrooms and more on-site parking.

- Copemaster, a division of **Shaw Millwork Inc.**, won for its production coping machine designed to reduce cope time and eliminate the need for recoping.
- An infinitely adjustable holddown shoe for moulders, developed by Infinite **Reverse Profiling LLC**, eliminated the need for developing special hold down shoes for irregular profiles.
- The CryoKinetics Division of **L.A.W. Group Inc.** won for its automated abrasive belt cleaning system using dry ice technology as an environmentally safe alternative to other methods.
- The Procentrix clamping and positioning system by **Gladu Tools Inc.** won for its ability to reduce insert change time and allow more sharpening of the tool.

- The Cameron Automation division of **James L. Taylor** won for Opti-Match, a system that color matched boards prior to panel gluing.
- The Heian UR-631P-161FX, available from **Stiles Machinery Inc.**, won for the stack-routing line's special throughfeed system for machining and handling complex furniture parts.
- The Kuper ACR Speed Star veneer splicer, available from **Stiles Machinery Inc.**, won for its advanced ergonomics, high-speed operation and improved output.

## 2004

IWF 2004 was a show where machinery suppliers reported strong demand. With 830,000 square feet of exhibit space and 29,889 registered buyers, many of the 1,372 exhibitors reported it was the best show ever. Improvements in the larger equipment focused on easier and quicker setup and changeover and improved material handling.

- **AccuSystems Inc.** won for its CNC miter, mortise and tenon machine. All operations were done on one machine and set-up time between a door front and drawer front took seconds.
- **Binks, DeVilbiss/ITW's** HVLP VTX spray gun won. It pre-atomized fluid before it got to the air cap, making automation more efficient, with less overspray.
- **FastCap LLC** won for FlipBolt, which eliminated the tool used in connecting countertops together, making installation easier.
- **Giardina Finishing** won for the MOS System, noted for its production and environmental features by the Challengers Award judges, uses microwave technology to heat products in a "jet-hot air drying tunnel with or without UV."
- **Mereen-Johnson** took home a win for the CamLock System. While looking for ways to refine the company's spacer-free, saw blade-locking system, the company hit upon the idea of using centrifugal force, generated by the rotation of the rip saw arbor, to lock the saw blades into place.
- **Vortex Tool Co.'s** Diamondback router bit won for an inlaid channel of polycrystalline.
- **Wood Technology** won for Evolve, a silent-closing hinge from Wood Technology Inc., using pneumatic technology into a clip-on hinge. Its hidden actuator automatically closes a door at 80 degrees, allowing for hands-free, soft closing.

## 2006

Seven companies were recognized Wednesday, Aug. 23, as winners of the Challengers Distinguished Achievement Awards for technology innovation at the International Woodworking Machinery & Furniture Supply Fair-USA.

- **Biesse** won for the Skipper CNC machining center. There is no need to regulate the worktable and there are no suction cups located on the machine, the locking of the panels of small dimensions is immediate and the grip is secure.
- **Dubois Equipment Co.** Inc won for the 3-D UV Oven that provides both even dosage and peak intensity across the full width of the conveyor belt on all of the product's surfaces.
- **ETemplate Systems** won for Digital measuring system which utilizes digital photography as its measurement medium. Dimensional data collected by ETemplate is directly compatible with all CAD and CAM systems using the industry standard geometry file format DXF.
- **Holz-Her U.S. Inc.** won with Kundig Brilliant (oblique) sanding unit. The machine pivots the sanding head from a conventional position of 90° to the conveyor to an oblique angle to the conveyor.
- **Navy Island Plywood Inc.** won for Grading standards. This is a non-subjective grading system for grading wood veneers.
- **Stiles Machinery Inc.** won for the Climate Technologies Corp. Fumes-to-Fuel VOC Abatement with a payback.
- **Weinig Group** won for Valu-Vision, a gang rip saw-optimizing scanner that fits a niche between fully automated rip scan systems and width measurement systems used today.

## 2008

Visitors were treated to a showcase of the latest woodworking technology as winners of the 2008 Challengers Distinguished Achievement Award were announced Wednesday. A total of 20 finalists were whittled down to the final seven winners and were announced at IWF 2008.

"Throughout manufacturing history, innovation is the key ingredient to continued success in our business," said Charles R. (Tommy) Tomkins, IWF 2008 chairman and president of Crescent Fine Furniture Co. "IWF exhibitors are answering the call to provide solutions that address the industry's manufacturing challenges."

- **DUX Area Inc.'s** DUX Advanced Laminar Airflow Technology for spray guns.
- **DV-Systems / Delle Vedove USA Inc.'s** UV-X Finishing System.
- **FS Tool Corp. / FS Cruing's** Aerotech System for dust free nesting extraction.
- **Giben International's** Zero Active Drive Beam Saw.
- **NAP GLADU's** Next G Series Diamond & Carbide Inserts Cutting Tool.
- **Super Thin Saws' UltraCem-Coated** Blades.
- **WoodEye/Innovative Vision AB 's** Automatic NHLA Grading of Hardwoods.

## 2010

The International Woodworking Fair (IWF) Challengers Distinguished Achievement Awards selection committee named the seven winning entries at a ceremony held this morning on the show floor. The winning companies were chosen from among 22 woodworking technology and supply finalists. A total of 80 products were entered by 65 companies.

- **BENZ Inc.** won for its Reciprocating Knife Cutter, designed to add a new level of versatility to a "C"-axis equipped CNC machine.
- **Binks, DeVilbiss** won for the Binks MX Pump which support one or two-gun spray finishing in air assist airless applications.
- **Cabinotch** won for the Cabinotch patented system, providing cabinetmakers with the ability to produce more cabinets in less time.
- The ETP CUBIT from **ETP Transmission Inc.** is a new patented adjustable system to operate with axial access and three steps quickly and accurately adjust profile tools.
- **King Slide Works Co. Ltd.** won for the Push-Open-Silent Soft-Close Undermount Slide that saves electricity and promotes green technology.
- **Leitz Tooling Systems, Inc.** won for the RipTec Cutting System, patented for window production
- **Precision Drive Systems** won for the Dyna-Loc ATC Spindle, a compact automatic tool change spindle system that incorporates standard HSK-style tool holders.

## 2012

- **CIM-Tech.Com, Inc.** won for Solid-CIM 3D, the ultimate solution for programming or nesting 3D solid parts and assemblies from many popular solid modeling products. Solid-CIM 3D turns solid models and assemblies into 100 percent machine ready NC Code.
- **Giben America, Inc.** won for Prisma6000 ECOtech which captures the lost kinetic energy of the large moving components (saw carriage and pusher in this case) during their deceleration (negative acceleration) ramping cycles, and turns that waste into energy.
- Frontino from **Hafele America Co.** won. This innovative hardware allows sliding doors to sit flush instead of on separate tracks allowing the consumer to have the functionality of sliding doors without altering the look of their cabinets.
- **James L. Taylor/JLT Clamps** won for Cameron Automation Cameron Flooring Nester which automates the labor-intensive job of nesting random length flooring into bundles ready for strapping.
- **Martin Woodworking Machines Corp.'s** Martin T75 Sliding Table Saw has revolutionized industry standards in terms of performance and flexibility.
- **Miltec UV** won for Gloss Control UV Finishing. The new HPI Gloss Control UV Curing system eliminates the need for costly downtime by allowing for only one coating for all gloss ranges from 30 to 80 gloss units.
- **Techniks, Inc.** won for Atemag Extra Plus Aggregate which significantly reduces machining cycle times for time consuming deep lock cases and mortise work on CNC routers.

## 2014

- **Aiken Development LLC/AikenControls** won for the nDepth 3D Sensor. It provides advanced 3D color and depth measurement for industrial applications including the wood/wood products industries.
- **Castle Inc.** won for the Pocket Cutter/Screw Inserter. The CSI 1.5 saves time, reduces waste and eliminates non-value-added labor and screw-handling for high production cabinet and furniture manufacturing.
- **Graco, Inc.** won for ProMix PD2K. The ProMix PD2K can reduce solvent use and mixed material waste by up to 80 percent compared to traditional electronic proportioners.
- **Thermwood Corp** won for Cut Center. It makes cabinets, closets, drawers, doors, drawer fronts and moldings without CNC programming .
- **Timesavers, Inc.** won for Yieldsaver - 24. The Yieldsaver-24 is a top and bottom knife planer with the added capability to automatically center each board as it is being processed.
- **Weinig/Holz-Her** won for GluJet hybrid technology. With GluJet hybrid technology, Holz-Her equipment can achieve zero joints.

- **Weinig/Holz-Her** also won for the Evolution vertical machining center providing industries a full 4 sided vertical machining capability coupled with a complete range of machining functions including, drilling-vertical and horizontal, routing, automatic tool changing and sawing with greater dust containment.

## 2016

- **Bacci America** won for the CNC Router for Shaping & Sanding Cabinet Doors Outside Profile of custom kitchen cabinet doors: the first, best and only CNC pod and rail machine for true high volume.
- **Biesse America** won for the Viet Robotic sanding of cross grain scratching and Mdf, wood or painted doors. The only automated solution for sanding MDF doors with flat center panel, as well as removal of cross grain scratching of solid wood doors.
- **Fastenlink** won for Fastenlink - a hidden connector system that joins materials in a fast, economical and innovative way.
- **Giben** won for Giben by Anderson which is a new model GS CNC router offers linear motor technology on both X and Y axis for incredible speeds for both positioning and machining.
- **Holz-Her** won for Ltronic, HOLZ-HER's completely integrated solution for processing laser edging. With Ltronic, users obtain a cost-effective alternative to laser and hot-air processes.
- **LMT Onsrud** won for Polaris Compression, the latest generation of compression spiral cutting tools from LMT Onsrud LP for the routing of panel materials. Specifically designed for significantly longer tool life in high pressure laminates and fire rated panels.
- **Salice** won for Salice Air, an innovative and revolutionary hinge, which, despite its compactness and small size, delivers full functionality to cabinet manufacturers.

