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**Massachusetts Alliance for International Business Honors Commonwealth Companies' International Trade Leadership**

***2009 award-winners include Eastern Bank of Boston, Middleton & Shrull of Burlington, Exim Associates of Sharon, Headwall Photonics of Fitchburg, Extrusion Technology of Randolph***

**BOSTON** – The Massachusetts Alliance for International Business (MAIB), affiliated with Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM), announced today the recipients of its 2009 International Trade Achievement Awards. The awards, in their 14<sup>th</sup> year, recognize Massachusetts firms, institutions, public agencies or individuals who have demonstrated creativity and leadership in their international trade-related activities – fueling their success as well as contributing to the statewide economy.

“Many companies are innovating and growing their businesses in the international marketplace, overcoming the challenges of the current financial climate, and we believe it’s important to recognize these companies for their contributions to the Massachusetts economy,” said Kristen Rupert, MAIB’s executive director.

The winning companies will be honored at the Associated Industries of Massachusetts’ Annual Meeting & Luncheon on Friday, May 8 at the Waltham Westin Hotel.

**GLOBAL AWARD: Headwall Photonics, Inc., Fitchburg**

Headwall Photonics’ high-performance instruments detect and analyze wavelengths of light. Used in a wide range of industries – telecommunications, medical, life sciences, defense and more--Headwall products match colors in textiles, detect contaminants in food, measure components in pharmaceutical products, analyze crime scenes, and provide wide field-of-view imaging for defense and Homeland Security operations. In a challenging economy, Headwall has achieved sales growth of 15 percent over the past two years. A nimble player, Headwall Photonics’ team of 30 Mass.-based employees is exporting products to the European Union, Australia, Canada, and Japan.

The MAIB International Trade Achievement Awards have recognized more than 50 Massachusetts companies, institutions and individuals since 1996. A complete list of award recipients is available at [www.aimnet.org/maib](http://www.aimnet.org/maib).

About Headwall Photonics

Headwall Photonics is the leading designer and manufacturer of spectral instrumentation and optical diffraction gratings for industrial, commercial, and government markets. Headwall’s high performance spectrometers, spectral engines, and holographic diffraction gratings have been selected by OEM and end-user customers around the world for use in critical application environments. As a pioneer in the development of innovative spectrographs and imaging spectrometers based on optical technologies, Headwall enjoys a market leadership position through the design and manufacture of patented spectral instrumentation that is customized for application-specific performance. Headwall Photonics was formed in 2003 as the result of a management buy-out from Agilent Technologies.

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About Massachusetts Alliance for International Business (MAIB)

The Massachusetts Alliance for International Business was created by Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM) to help Massachusetts businesses identify and profit from opportunities in the global economy. Through seminars, referrals, on-line news bulletins and export trend reports, MAIB provides companies with the resources they need for successful international trade. For further information about MAIB and the International Trade Achievement Awards, visit [www.aimnet.org/maib](http://www.aimnet.org/maib).

About Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)

Established in 1915, Associated Industries of Massachusetts is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan association of Massachusetts employers. With 6500 member companies employing 650,000 people in Mass., AIM's mission is to promote the well-being and prosperity of the Commonwealth by improving the State's economic climate, proactively advocating fair and equitable public policy and providing relevant, reliable information and excellent services. For further information about Associated Industries of Massachusetts, visit [www.aimnet.org](http://www.aimnet.org).

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