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Starkey Hearing Technologies Recognized as Manufacturing Leadership Awards 2018 Winner

Chief Operations Officer Chris Hillman honored for enabling operational excellence

MINNEAPOLIS (March 15, 2018) – A leading innovator in hearing technology, Starkey Hearing Technologies is pleased to share that it has been recognized as a 2018 Manufacturing Leadership Awards winner for its outstanding achievement in operational excellence. Chris Hillman, Starkey Hearing Technologies’ chief operations officer, has been selected to receive this prestigious award in the Visionary Leadership category, which places him among an esteemed group of leaders who are shaping the future of global operations.

Starkey Hearing Technologies has embarked on a mission to transform its operations with a simple objective in mind: make doing business effortless for our customers by being the most efficient and effective company possible. Under Hillman’s leadership, the company is partnering with its worldwide network of hearing health professionals and partners to optimize its end-to-end global operations for increased efficiency, reduced lead times and improved product quality and customer service levels. The innovative strategies Hillman has helped Starkey develop ensure that sustainable best-in-class performance continues to meet the needs of the hearing aid industry.

“I am honored to be recognized by the Manufacturing Leadership Council in the Visionary Leadership category. This is truly a team recognition, and full credit goes to our 5,000 Starkey employees who come to work every day with the goals of serving our customers better and providing better hearing to patients around the world,” Hillman said. “This is a testament to Starkey’s outstanding global culture and representative of William F. Austin’s vision of continuous improvement - *‘Better today than yesterday. Better tomorrow than today.’*”

Hillman and Starkey Hearing Technologies will be recognized at the 14th Annual Manufacturing Leadership Awards Gala, on June 13, 2018 at the 2018 Manufacturing Leadership Summit in Huntington Beach, California.

About Starkey Hearing Technologies

Starkey Hearing Technologies is a privately held, global hearing technology company headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Founded in 1967, the company is recognized for its innovative design, development and distribution of comprehensive digital hearing systems. The company develops, manufactures and distributes hearing aids via three distinct brands – Audibel, NuEar and its original brand, Starkey. As the only American owned and operated provider of hearing technologies, Starkey Hearing Technologies is proud to support veterans and active military service personnel with the best in American innovation, including a suite of revolutionary hearing technologies and other resources.

Starkey Hearing Technologies currently employs more than 5,000 people and operates 22 facilities and conducts business in more than 100 markets worldwide. For more information, visit www.starkey.com.

About the Manufacturing Leadership Awards

The Manufacturing Leadership Awards, now in their 14th year, honor manufacturing companies and individual manufacturing leaders that are shaping the future of global manufacturing. Winning projects and individual manufacturing leaders have demonstrated achievement in one of a wide range of categories, and are chosen by a panel of [expert judges](#) for results that have delivered clear and compelling value, return on investment, and other tangible outcomes. There will be several winners in each category, including one High Achiever's Award in each category, as well as a 2018 Manufacturer of the Year for both small and large enterprises. Also unveiled at the Gala will be the ML Awards Manufacturing Leader of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award winners.

The theme for the 14th Annual Manufacturing Leadership Summit is "Accelerating the Transformation to Manufacturing 4.0." The event enables senior-level executives in all aspects of manufacturing an opportunity to network with and learn from the best minds in the industry.

For more information on the Manufacturing Leadership Awards or the Manufacturing Leadership Summit, please go to www.mlsummit.com.

About Frost & Sullivan

Frost & Sullivan, the Growth Partnership Company, works in collaboration with clients to leverage visionary innovation that addresses the global challenges and related growth opportunities that will make or break today's market participants.

Frost & Sullivan's "Growth Partnership" supports clients by addressing these opportunities and incorporating two key elements driving visionary innovation: The Integrated Value Proposition and The Partnership Infrastructure.

- ***The Integrated Value Proposition*** provides support to their clients throughout all phases of their journey to visionary innovation including: research, analysis, strategy, vision, innovation and implementation.
- ***The Partnership Infrastructure*** is entirely unique as it constructs the foundation upon which visionary innovation becomes possible. This includes their 360-degree research, comprehensive industry coverage, career best practices as well as their global footprint of more than 40 offices.

For more than 50 years, Frost & Sullivan has been developing growth strategies for the global 1000, emerging businesses, the public sector and the investment community. <http://www.frost.com>.

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