

Aker Solutions Named 2008 Manufacturer of the Year

Aker Solutions started local operations with 33 employees in 2003. Today, that number has increased four-fold to 140. The local facility is the Mobile Area Chamber's 2008 Manufacturer of the Year.

Located in Alabama State Port Authority's Middle Bay Port, Aker is a leading provider of engineering and construction services, and manufactures umbilical and other sub sea equipment used to extract oil and gas beneath the ocean floor.

"This prestigious award puts an exclamation point on what has been our very best year since we started our U.S. umbilical manufacturing operation nearly six years ago," said **Don Craig**, vice president of umbilicals and risers for Aker.

In five years, the Mobile facility has produced more than 400 miles of umbilicals sold throughout North and South America and Africa with one of the greatest concentrations in Gulf Coast waters.

Umbilicals are helical, cable-like bundles consisting of fiber-optic, electrical and power cables, and high-alloy stainless steel tubes that carry hydraulic or chemical fluids. A typical sub-sea production control umbilical, connecting a topside host platform to an undersea well, can have step-out distances as far as 40 miles long and to water depths that can exceed 5,000 feet.

Aker continues to exhibit impressive employment growth, above average wages and steady investment. The Mobile facility recently garnered a series of customer agreements including a \$65 million contract with Petrobras, the Brazilian national oil company, and a \$25 million contract with Murphy Exploration and Production Co., a subsidiary of Murphy Oil. These, along with a backlog of orders, are expected to secure the company's continued growth.



A full log of orders and new customer agreements are helping ensure Aker Solutions' continued growth. The company produces underwater umbilicals for the oil and gas industry, and has quadrupled its number of employees since it first opened in 2003. The Mobile facility of Aker Solutions is the Mobile Area Chamber's Manufacturer of the Year. Pictured from left to right are Donald Craig, vice president; Steve Russell, director of business retention and expansion at the Chamber; and Jim Altieri, manufacturing manager.

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