

Bill and Jim Sutton inducted into the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Honour Roll

04 June 2010 The Victorian Government, in partnership with the Victorian Industry Manufacturing Council, inducted Bill and Jim Sutton into the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Honour Roll for their outstanding contributions to sustained manufacturing excellence in Victoria at the annual industry gala dinner held on 2 June 2010 in Melbourne. In accepting the induction, Jim Sutton attributed the success of the company, which was established by Bills and Jims grandfather Henry Sutton in 1917, to its 400 strong dedicated staff and the continuing investment in research and development. Mr Sutton, who was also speaking for his brother Bill, who was unable to attend the event, said it was a great honour and privilege to accept the award after joining the family business more than 50 years ago. We attribute our success and sustainability to our dedicated staff, our investment in R&D and our commitment to quality through benchmarking against world-best practice, he said. Today we have three factories in Victoria, one in New Zealand and a joint venture in India, together producing more than 100,000 tools a day with a passion for quality and family tradition. The Thomastown-based company is still 100% family-owned and Mr Sutton said he was proud and fortunate to have their sons Robert and Peter on board to continue the tradition. When announcing the inductees, Minister for Agriculture and Small Business, the Hon. Joe Helper MP, said the Honour Roll celebrated individuals with the foresight, creativity and energy to take Victorian manufacturing to a higher level, which is exactly what Bill and Jim Sutton have achieved during their long career. Acting as joint Directors and Managing Directors for 25 years, Bill and Jim have truly steered the strategic vision and direction for the company with years of dedication and hard work. An aggressive commitment to technology and expansion has underpinned their leadership at Sutton Tools. Among other achievements, Bill and Jim were instrumental in introducing the first physical vapour deposition coating facility to the country through the establishment of Surface Technology Coatings, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sutton Tools. Furthermore, the brothers were among the first in the world to adopt the ground from solid methodology for the manufacture of drills and cutters, a move that ensured the companys ability to export to more than 20 countries, with Germany being the biggest market. It has been strategies such as these, coupled with a solid joint vision that has seen Sutton Tools grow in market share and production capability during the Bill and Jim era. Today, Sutton Tools is the only Australian manufacturer of world quality cutting tools and much of that success is down to the leadership of Jim and Bill Sutton, who have always stuck to the Sutton family mantra, Manufactured in Australia, exported to the world.

About the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame The Victorian Government established the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame in June 2001 to celebrate manufacturing excellence in Victoria. The Hall of Fame showcases locally-based manufacturers whose innovative and sophisticated solutions to manufacturing challenges are world class. In partnership with the Manufacturing Industry Consultative Council, the Victorian Government selects individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions to sustained manufacturing excellence for inclusion in the Manufacturing Hall of Fame. Since 2001, 105 companies, 22 honour roll recipients, 2 lifetime members, and seven Young Manufacturers of the Year have been recognised by the program. These award winners represent a depth of capability across the manufacturing sector including aeronautical, automotive, telecommunications, printing, textiles, scientific instruments, health, packaging, marine, recycling and food. The 2010 awards were presented on Wednesday, 2 June by the Minister for Agriculture and Small Business, the Hon. Joe Helper MP.

About Sutton Tools Sutton Tools was founded in 1917 in Melbourne as a tooling specialist to service the emerging Australian manufacturing industry. As a 100% Australian-owned family business specialising in the manufacture and distribution of cutting tools and accessories, Sutton Tools recognises the relentless challenge facing metalworking industries to produce faster and more efficiently than ever before. Sutton Tools provides a comprehensive range of application specific cutting tools to both the domestic and international markets. Tools are designed using the companys high level of expertise, and are manufactured utilising the latest organisational and production techniques for optimising lead times, quality and productivity. Critical to the companys success is the control of all operations in-house and the provision of in-field service for the 20,000 items available ex-stock. All products are available internationally through a selected distribution network operating in 18 countries worldwide.

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