

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has backed National Manufacturing Week - Australia's largest integrated manufacturing industry event (May 8 - 11 @ Sydney Olympic Park) as a crucial industry event. Mr O'Farrell comments, As Premier and Minister for the nation's largest manufacturing region - Western Sydney - I am keenly aware of the value that a healthy and dynamic manufacturing sector delivers for the NSW economy. By bringing together customers and suppliers, and promoting new technologies and innovations, trade events such as NMW are crucial to ensuring our local businesses remain internationally competitive, he said. National Manufacturing Week aims to strengthen industry through technology, innovation and education. This year's event - NMW 2012 - will feature innovations from many of the world's leading manufacturing suppliers including Nord Drivesystems, Kemppi and BOC. Alongside them will be smaller companies reflecting Australia's growing capabilities in manufacturing for low volume, high value niche markets. This group includes CGB Precision Products, suppliers of precision bearings for specialist manufacturing applications, who will be participating in NMW for the first time in almost a decade. CGB's MD, Bill Lingard comments, We have found a growing interest in CGB's new products, for extreme or extremely precise applications. In addition to our existing business in aerospace and automotive applications, we are now working with companies in printing, dental, automation, measurement and a range of newer industries and NMW will be a central point for exhibiting our products to these and other manufacturers. Paul Baker, Exhibition Director, National Manufacturing Week comments that the event's mix of large and niche exhibitors reflects an industry that has grown steadily in absolute terms over the last decade albeit at a slower rate than other sectors of the economy - contributing \$11.1BN to Australia's economy in 2010 - 2011. Australia's manufacturing industry is alive and well, says Baker. There is no denying that manufacturers are operating in a tough environment, with the high value of the Australian dollar and higher cost base presenting a competitive challenge. However, there is clear evidence Australian industry is responding with increased productivity and innovation. NMW 2012 will, once again, feature a showcase of the latest capabilities available to industry and we believe there will be strong interest in these new developments. NMW 2012 will be held at Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park - the gateway to Australia's largest manufacturing zone. Event organiser, Reed Exhibitions is confident that the show will again deliver essential networking opportunities for industry (when last held in Sydney - in 2010 - NMW attracted around 10,000 trade visitors). New features for NMW 2012 include a record 12 Product Zones (including two new Product Zones, focusing on Sustainable Manufacturing and Metals & Composites) which make it easier for visitors to find areas of specific interest. The event will also include a one-day conference focusing on Essential strategies, tools and methodologies for Australian manufacturers. Paul Baker concludes, We are looking forward to opening the doors to NMW 2012 in Sydney on May 8. I'm confident exhibitors will be bringing innovative ideas that will, as the Premier acknowledges, help ensure local manufacturers remain globally competitive. For more information on NMW 2012, visit www.nationalmanufacturingweek.com.au.

ABOUT REED EXHIBITIONS AUSTRALIA Reed Exhibitions is the world's leading organiser of trade and consumer exhibitions and excels in creating high profile, highly targeted business and consumer exhibitions to establish and maintain business relations, and generate new business. From its offices based in Chatswood NSW, Reed Exhibitions runs over 20 events each year in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia covering a broad range of industry sectors. Globally, Reed Exhibitions runs over 460 events in 38 countries, bringing together over 90,000 suppliers and more than 5.5 million buyers. With 2,300 employees in 33 offices around the globe the company serves 52 industries worldwide. Its network of offices and promoters extends to 45 countries.