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nienkämper

Nienkämper – A Canada's 50 Best Managed Company 2010

Success in the Face of US Financial Meltdown

Toronto, February 16, 2010. Nienkämper Furniture & Accessories Inc. has been named among Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies. The honour tops a long list of awards for the internationally renowned furniture designer and manufacturer and its founder Klaus Nienkämper.

"This country has given me so much – nothing could make me prouder than to be named among its 50 best managed companies. It is particularly welcome to have this acknowledgement of our success coming out of the worst downturn in our company's forty year history," said Klaus.

With 85% of its customer base in corporate America in the past, it has been a challenging time for Nienkämper. But the current crisis in US commercial development was not about to stop the company that survived Worldcom and Enron.

"Fortunately we had recognized our vulnerability to US financial cycles and began developing our markets overseas. We have enjoyed particular success in the Middle East which has helped to offset our dependence on our US customers by over 30%."

The company recently completed a \$15 M project in Saudi Arabia for King Abdullah's University of Science and Technology, the largest LEED® Platinum certified project in the world. All products produced by Nienkämper for the project were Forestry Stewardship Council ("FSC") certified.

Nienkämper is recognized around the world for sophisticated high-end corporate office and public space furniture which includes both upholstered and case goods. A leader in design, the company is also in the forefront of the sustainability movement in commercial furnishings, manufacturing FSC and Greenguard® certified products. A member of the Canada Green Building Council, Nienkämper has recycled over 90% of all waste.

Nienkämper is an outstanding employer to its diverse workforce representing a multitude of different nationalities. With many long-service employees, the company boasts a remarkably low turnover rate. Investing in training, it has formed partnerships with many local school boards, community colleges and national art institutions, including the provision of scholarships and internships, most notably the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts Nienkämper Scholarship. Nienkämper offers both apprenticeships and co-op placements to raise the standards of furniture design and production in Canada.

Nienkämper has also been an impressive corporate citizen. Mr. Nienkämper was a founding member of the Toronto Design Exchange and more recently worked with Daniel Libeskind to create the ROM's "Spirit House" Chair. Nienkämper was a major donor to the ROM revitalization project, Ontario College of Art and Design and has provided funding to the AGO for special events.

Nienkämper is focused on creating a workplace and public environments where people can realize their full potential. The company occupies a sprawling 120,000 square foot facility in north Toronto that houses state-of-the-art furniture manufacturing equipment, much of it customized to meet Nienkämper's demanding design standards.

Jennifer Raymer
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