



For Immediate Release

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Read article in the Sun Times: "Cleaning oily parts gets easier, quicker and a lot cheaper",
http://www.suntimes.com/special_sections/innovation2005/cst-fin-cia-grease11.html

SSI'S GREASE GATOR AQUEOUS PARTS WASHER WINS CHICAGO INNOVATION AWARD

- Fourth Annual Competition Honors Top Ten Local Innovations -

CHICAGO, Ill., October 11, 2005 – As one of ten honorees at the 2005 Chicago Innovation Awards, SSI (Solvent Systems International) of Elk Grove Village has redefined parts washing with their Grease Gator Aqueous Parts Washer System.

The aqueous Grease Gator, developed with the University of Illinois, was selected from more than 130 nominees to be recognized among the area's best innovations of the year. Winners were selected based upon the uniqueness of product and services, fulfilling an unmet need, exceeding customer expectations and the achievement of market success.

"We are very pleased to be recognized for this innovation," said Steve Rundell, president of SSI. "Our mission is to develop and bring to market the most promising, cost-effective pollution prevention technologies. The Grease Gator is our latest innovation and it will revolutionize the parts washing industry," said Rundell. A parts washer tends to be "invisible" in the background of many industries including automotive service centers and in the manufacturing facilities of assorted products. It is estimated that there are over one million in use today in the U.S. A majority of these machines use mineral spirits as a cleaning solvent. But mineral spirits has serious issues. Recent studies have indicated that mineral spirits has human health risks. Also mineral spirits emit Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) which contribute to global warming, a growing environmental concern for our society. "The Grease Gator will change all that and bring a new standard of safety and efficiency to the cleaning of mechanical parts. With an on-board fluid purifier which keeps the cleaning solution constantly clean, 99.5% less VOC emissions than mineral spirits, and 57% more cleaning power, the Grease Gator is a better solution than any parts washer on the market today. And while pollution prevention solutions frequently come at a cost, the Grease Gator will actually save a customer money over competing parts washer options" said Rundell. The Grease Gator's required maintenance consists of a simple turn of the valve. This purges the collected used oil which is ready for recycling or reuse. SSI can even arrange to pay for it and pick it up. This simple maintenance routine eliminates the need for costly fluid replacement services as required for mineral spirits parts washers as well as the perpetual rental fees which are typical for those machines.

Chicago-based consulting firm Kuczmariski Associates and the Chicago Sun-Times newspaper created the Chicago Innovation Awards program and oversaw the nomination and judging processes. Honorees from the winning companies will be honored on Tuesday, October 18 in a ceremony at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

"Chicago area companies and organizations have produced countless innovations during the past 150 years. The Chicago Innovation Awards help create awareness of today's local innovations that are changing the world," said Thomas Kuczmariski, president of Kuczmariski Associates. "Not only do Chicago Innovation Award winners create innovation and bring it to life on a daily basis, they inspire and educate others to do so as well."

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About the Chicago Innovation Awards

Kuczmariski & Associates and the Chicago Sun-Times established the Chicago Innovation Awards in 2002 as an annual program to honor significant innovations introduced by Chicago area companies. Each year, the Chicago Innovation Awards honor ten winners who have introduced products or services that uniquely fill unmet needs, generate a competitive response in the marketplace, exceed market expectations and achieve financial success.

The contest was open to any type of organization with national or divisional headquarters in northern Illinois, northwestern Indiana, southeastern Wisconsin or southwestern Michigan. As in previous years, the title sponsor of this year's awards program is the William Wrigley Jr. Company. Other sponsors are Microsoft Corporation, the Goodman Theatre, Slack Barshinger & Partners and Maggiano's Little Italy.

For more information, visit www.ChicagoInnovationAwards.com online.

About Kuczmariski Associates

Kuczmariski & Associates is a leading management consulting firm specializing in helping companies to accelerate growth through innovative new product and service development and branding, positioning and marketing strategy. Founded in 1983, K&A is recognized by Consultants News as one of "North America's 100 Leading Management Consulting Firms," serving Fortune 500 corporations to small businesses in a broad range of industries. K&A specializes in consumer-based consulting and assists clients in developing strategies, building frameworks, outlining processes and designing training programs to enhance management performance. For more information, visit www.kuczmariski.com online.