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## **Ohio Decorative Products recognized by Whirlpool Corporation As an Outstanding Supplier of the Year**

Spencerville, Ohio – Ohio Decorative Products, Inc. (Ohio Dec), a leading, Midwest-based metal casting, plating and stamping manufacturer, has been recognized by Whirlpool Corporation (NYSE:WHR), a leading manufacturer of major home appliances, as one of Whirlpool's outstanding suppliers of 2003, according to a recent announcement from Whirlpool. Ohio Dec made the top 40 lists of suppliers out of more than 700 approved U.S. vendors. Preferred suppliers are selected for their ability to provide excellence in quality, delivery, productivity, and innovation. Ohio Dec has been an approved supplier for Whirlpool Corporation since the 1950s, manufacturing zinc and aluminum die-casting and decorative aluminum stamping used in a variety of Whirlpool® appliances. The appliance giant recognized Ohio Dec for its contributions in innovative, new product design and development that ultimately provided a cost savings for Whirlpool Corporation.

“Our relationship with Whirlpool is a long and prosperous one because of our equal commitment to providing better operating, more innovative and appealing home appliance products,” said Charles D. Moeller, chairman of the board of Ohio Dec. “Through this alliance, we both (Whirlpool and Ohio Dec) have successfully withstood the economic volatility of business cycles for decades. We are proud to be a working partner with such a fine company as Whirlpool Corporation.”

On May 20, 2004, the Allen County Board of Commissioners, Allen County, Ohio held an open press conference in part to honor Ohio Dec with an honorary proclamation for its outstanding commitment to developing and producing products of exceptional quality and desirability within the metal casting, plating and stamping industry. Ohio Dec operates two metal products manufacturing facilities: Ohio Dec in Spencerville, Ohio, and Ken-Dec, Inc. in Horse Cave, Kentucky. The two plants are responsible for manufacturing and distributing a wide variety of metal casting, plating, and stamping products and services across a broad range of industries. Additionally, the company operates several foam pouring, production, and distribution facilities under the name of Flexible Foam Products, Inc., throughout the United States.

“We are very proud of all the suppliers we partner with that year in and year out help us to maintain our status as the world's leading home appliance manufacturer,” said Franklin Starn, Whirlpool Corporation's vice president for North American procurement. “So many of them – especially those that we are honoring – consistently meet our requirements in terms of quality, production, engineering, design, availability, and increasingly, innovation.”

Whirlpool Corporation, headquartered in Benton Harbor, Michigan, is the world's leading manufacturer and marketer of major home appliances, with annual sales of over \$12 billion, 68,000 employees, and nearly 50 manufacturing and technology research centers around the globe. The company markets Whirlpool, KitchenAid, Brastemp, Bauknecht, Consul and other major brand names to consumers in more than 170 countries.

Additional information about Ohio Decorative Products, Inc. can be found on the Internet at [www.ohiodec.com](http://www.ohiodec.com) and [www.flexiblefoam.com](http://www.flexiblefoam.com) #