



International Woodworking Fair A Success in Atlanta

ATLANTA (Aug. 29, 2003) – In a time when many conventions are challenged with shrinking attendance and exhibitors, the International Woodworking Fair (IWF) recently hosted one of its most successful events with more than 45,000 participants – its second largest attendance to date – and an increase of 18 percent in overall exhibit space.

“We couldn’t be happier with the success of the show and with the new expansion at the Georgia World Congress Center,” commented IWF President and CEO Patrick LaFramboise. “The manufacturing industry is doing well despite the current recession, and IWF is the largest show of its kind in the world, attracting attendees and exhibitors from around the globe. The new expansion provided our exhibitors much-needed space to expand.”

IWF showcases machinery, supplies and services for both large manufacturers and small professional shops in the woodworking, furniture, cabinetry, solid surface, architectural woodwork, store fixtures and plastic fabricating industries. This year’s show included 1,332 exhibitors from around the world displaying the latest in machinery, supplies and services to attendees from more than 80 countries.

“The success of this show reinforces Atlanta’s reputation as a top host for conventions,” said Spurgeon Richardson, president and CEO of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB). “Atlanta has one of the best infrastructures in the world for hosting meetings and special events with a world-class convention center, more than 12,000 rooms within walking distance of the center, and excellent transportation with the MARTA rail system. With Hartsfield Airport’s accessibility and the multitude of hotel options for every price-range, Atlanta is an ideal venue for both meeting planners and conventioners.”

IWF is owned and sponsored by American Furniture Manufacturers Association (AFMA), Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) and Woodworking Machinery Industry Association (WMIA).

Established in 1913, the ACVB is a private, nonprofit organization created exclusively to market metro Atlanta and Georgia as the premier conventions, meetings and leisure destination in the regional, national and international marketplace and to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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For more information, please contact:

Brandy Humphries
ACVB
Manager, Public Relations
404.521.6645
bhumphries@atlanta.net

Paula Emde
IWF
Director of Marketing & Communications
770.246.0608
pemde@iwfatlanta.com