



NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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**DUKE MANUFACTURING COMPANY SELECTS MISSOURI ENTERPRISE
FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Sedalia, Missouri, January 31, 2005 – Duke Manufacturing Company has selected Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center to provide a continuous improvement program including training and implementation services to improve efficiency and reduce set up time of sheet metal fabrication at its Sedalia plant.

Setup reduction refers to decreasing the time and resources that it takes to change a specific machine or production line from the manufacture of one product to another.

According to Mike McDermott, Plant Manager, Duke Manufacturing, the company's continuous improvement efforts help it maintain its position in the highly competitive global marketplace.

The company is an industry leader in the design and manufacture of a comprehensive line of food service equipment that is sold nationally and internationally. Products including work tables, food warmers, food holding units, buffet units, serving systems and convenience store cabinets are among those offered.

Missouri Enterprise Project Director Mark Kelchner will supervise the project.

Missouri Enterprise is a not-for-profit corporation that provides business and technical assistance to help Missouri companies succeed. It manages the Manufacturing Extension Partnership in Missouri, an Advanced Manufacturing Training Program (funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant) a value added agriculture program and one of the state's Innovation Centers.