



NEWS RELEASE
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For More Information, Contact:
Harold Zinn, Vice President
Corporate Communications
314-266-4791
314-971-1837 (mobile)
hzinn@missourienterprise.org

**HERMANN OAK LEATHER COMPANY SELECTS MISSOURI ENTERPRISE
FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

St. Louis, Missouri, July 5, 2007 – Hermann Oak Leather Company has selected Missouri Enterprise to provide a continuous manufacturing improvement program at the company's North First Street facility. The project will include both employee training and continuous improvement implementation support, according to President Shep Hermann.

Hermann Oak Leather Company, founded in 1881, is one of the nation's oldest leather tanning and manufacturing operations.

Missouri Enterprise is an organization composed of experienced manufacturing and business management professionals who provide business and technical assistance to help Missouri companies succeed. It manages the Manufacturing Extension Partnership in Missouri, an Advanced Manufacturing Specialist Training Program (funded by a U.S. Department of Labor grant) and one of the state's Innovation Centers.