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The award recognizes the auto industryÂ□s top suppliers and is based on customer evaluations of quality, pricing, delivery, customer service and innovation. Behr was honored for excellence in the field of automotive heating and air conditioning.

Rob Wilson, publisher of Automotive Industries, said that Â□to be ranked by your customers as the Â□best of the bestÂ□ is a significant achievement. The Â□Quest for ExcellenceÂ□ Award calls attention to the outstanding job Behr has done to create high-quality, just-in-time, value-added products for the automobile industry.Â□

Wilson noted that only OEM readers of the magazine who personally review, recommend, approve or purchase products in the field of automotive heating and cooling systems took part in the award-selection process. Â□This award does not represent the opinion of Automotive Industries or its editorial staff,Â□ explained Wilson. Â□Our readers selected the winners based on their own experiences with Behr and other supplier companies.Â□

Behr America recently opened a new \$34-million North American headquarters and technical center in Troy and construction is underway for a \$15-million climactic wind tunnel at the facility to test automotive heating and cooling equipment.

Â□Over the past three years, we have made major investments to better serve our North American automotive customers, including, but not limited to, DaimlerChrysler, General Motors and Ford,Â□ noted Hans Lange, president of Behr America. Â□This award from our OEM customers is especially meaningful to Behr and our employees throughout North America. We are committed to maintaining the highest quality and customer service standards and this award reinforces that commitment.Â□

Behr America is an automotive supplier of engine cooling modules and components, Visco fan assemblies and air conditioning systems, with sales of \$230 million in the 2001 fiscal year. With the addition of a new plant in Ohio in 2002, projected sales for 2002 are about \$680 million. The company has facilities in Troy and Webberville, Michigan; Dayton, Ohio; Charleston, South Carolina; Canton, South Dakota, and Fort Worth,

Texas, with 3,000 employees.

Behr America's parent company, Behr GmbH & Co. KG is a systems partner for the international automobile industry. Behr Group's 2001 sales totaled \$2 billion. Including the Behr Dayton Thermal Products plant which was acquired in May 2002, Behr Group globally employs almost 16,000 at 25 production facilities in Europe, North and South America, South Africa and India generating sales in excess of \$2.6 billion.

Additional information is available at www.behrgroup.com.

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