



Karen L. Howard
Vice President – Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Columbus McKinnon Corporation
716-689-5550
karen.howard@cmworks.com

J.Ed. Marston
Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce
(423) 763-4347
jmarston@chattanooga-chamber.com

Immediate Release

Columbus McKinnon Expands in Chattanooga

CHATTANOOGA, TN., June 10, 2009 – Columbus McKinnon Corporation (NASDAQ: CMCO), a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of material handling products, has announced plans to invest \$5.5 million to expand its Chattanooga specialty forging and assembly operations (also known as Dixie Industries). Over the next three years, the Company plans that approximately 120 jobs will be added to the current employment level doubling the number of Dixie Industries employees in Chattanooga.

According to Chuck Giesige, Columbus McKinnon Vice President, “Chattanooga met all of the Company’s needs. In making our decision, we considered the quality, efficiency, productivity and customer-oriented culture of the workforce. In addition, our Chattanooga Operations have an excellent safety culture and a strong leadership team. All are the right ingredients for success in today’s demanding business environment.” Mr. Giesige added, “We were also very impressed with the level of support we received from the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, the State of Tennessee, and the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce. The local business environment was an important factor in our decision-making process.”

“In these tough economic times, every job counts,” said Ron Littlefield, mayor of Chattanooga. “We appreciate Columbus McKinnon and Dixie Industries for continuing to grow in our community.”

Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey applauded Dixie Industries’ long tenure in the community. “Dixie Industries has been employing Hamilton County residents for nearly 100 years,” Mayor Ramsey said. “These are good family-wage jobs, and that’s great news right now.”

“Thanks to companies like Columbus McKinnon, our community is attracting investment despite the global economic downturn,” said Trevor Hamilton, vice president of economic development. “As the economic climate improves, we are well positioned for growth.”

“Once again, the strong working partnership between the state of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and Hamilton County has yielded results for Tennessee workers,” said Matt Kisber, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. “Columbus McKinnon’s investment is recognition that the work we’re doing to develop Tennessee’s nationally recognized business climate is paying off.”

The Chattanooga Operations make a variety of forged metal products for industrial applications primarily used for lifting and positioning. In addition, they also supply products used in forestry and logging, towing and load securement.

The Chattanooga Operations include a forging facility near Highland Park and a facility off Amnicola Highway that includes welding, assembly and finishing. The expansion includes infrastructure improvements such as building modifications and power upgrades, as well as the addition of forging and processing equipment aimed at providing a high level of service to CMCO’s many current and future customers.

As new employment positions are identified, they will be posted at the Southeast Tennessee Career Center. Applicants must apply at the Career Center located at 5600 Brainerd Road, Eastgate Town Center, Suite A5 (next to the YMCA). Openings are anticipated beginning in early fall.

About Columbus McKinnon

Columbus McKinnon is a leading worldwide designer, manufacturer and marketer of material handling products, systems and services, which efficiently and ergonomically move, lift position or secure material. Key products include hoists, cranes, actuators, chain and forged attachments. The Company is focused on commercial and industrial applications that require the safety and quality provided by its superior design and engineering know-how. Columbus McKinnon routinely posts news and other comprehensive information on its web site at <http://www.cmworks.com>.

Safe Harbor Statement

This news release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements concerning future revenue and earnings, involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause the actual results of the Company to differ materially from the results expressed or implied by such statements, including general economic and business conditions, conditions affecting the industries served by the Company and its subsidiaries, conditions affecting the Company's customers and suppliers, competitor responses to the Company's products and services, the overall market acceptance of such products and services, the effect of operating leverage, the pace of bookings relative to shipments, the ability to expand into new markets and geographic regions, the success in acquiring new business, the speed at which shipments improve, and other factors disclosed in the Company's periodic reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Company assumes no obligation to update the forward-looking information contained in this release.

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