

Tom Schabel
Alexandria Extrusion Company
Alexandria, MN 56308
(320) 763-6537
www.alex-extrusion.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2003

ALEXANDRIA, MINN. - Design innovation was in the spotlight recently as Tom Schabel, president of Alexandria Extrusion Company (AEC), joined with a leading, worldwide medical product manufacturer's development team in accepting the prestigious Medical Device Excellence Award from Cannon Communications LLC. The award, which recognizes engineers, scientists and designers responsible for ground-breaking innovations in the medical technology community, was presented at the Medical Design and Manufacturing East 2003 Conference and Exposition in New York City June 2-4.

Light weight, thin-walled extrusions designed, manufactured, machined and finished by AEC were integral components in the award-winning EMS mobility aid, an emergency patient transportation device which enables trained emergency medical technicians to quickly and safely move a medically compromised individual.

"This award winning product is a great example of AEC's commitment to working with customers to design for manufacturability and assembly," noted Schabel. "This particular mobility aid manufacturer came to us with an idea, and working together, we were able to design and manufacture an end product which is lightweight, able to withstand a wide range of environmental conditions and excessive abuses, fits into an eight-inch pre-existing ambulance compartment, supports the weight of a 400-pound person and is still aesthetically pleasing."

AEC engineers were involved early and often in the mobility aid design cycle to optimize the unique characteristics and capabilities of aluminum, the extrusion process and in-house value-added services. In addition, the company's dedicated durable medical equipment (DME) team worked with their personnel to ensure that real savings were realized through continuous cost reduction focus, high volume discounts and quality control.

"Alexandria Extrusion Company is very proud to have been a part of the innovative and exciting design process which resulted in the award winning EMS mobility aid," said Schabel. "Since our founding in 1966, we have been dedicated to working with customers to provide solutions. Being recognized with the Medical Device Excellence Award is more proof that our dedication pays off."

For more information about designing for manufacturability with AEC, visit their Web site at www.alex-extrusion.com, or call Alan Merwin, Medical Products Sales Specialist at 612-865-8315.