



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESMAR IS WASHINGTON STATE'S TRADER OF THE YEAR

WOODINVILLE, WA – 3 JUNE 03 - WESMAR, Seattle area marine electronics company has received the prestigious Trader of the Year award. The award was presented to President Bruce Blakey at the World Trade Club Annual Award Dinner May 29 by Washington's Governor Gary Locke.

The award is presented annually to a Washington State company that contributes to the state economy and demonstrates outstanding achievements in international trade. It has been presented every year since 1982 and includes such past recipients as The Boeing Company, Microsoft, John Fluke Manufacturing, Expeditors International and Physio Control. WESMAR was selected this year over other respected Washington State Companies in the running such as BSquare, Brunswick (owner of Bayliner, SeaRay, and Hatteras) and others.

WESMAR, Western Marine Electronics, is a Seattle area company with 38 years experience in International business. They were one of the first Seattle recipients of the U.S. Commerce Department's E Award for Export Excellence in 1968 and were recognized again in 2002 for their export excellence. They have consistently exported over 50% of their product since their beginning.

The company was founded in 1965 by President Bruce H. Blakey who had an idea for a solid-state sonar system that could be manufactured at a price affordable to the commercial fishermen. That idea forever changed how fishing fleets of the world locate their fish. Today, WESMAR continues to be a leader around the world in design and manufacture of commercial fishing sonar. The company has made its corporate home in the Seattle area since that time, with all design, manufacturing and sales headquartered here.

In 1996 they expanded to an 82,000 square foot manufacturing and sales facility in Woodinville where they manufacture a complete line of marine sonar equipment for the commercial and defense markets. These products along with the commercial and pleasure boat bow thruster and roll fin stabilizer line are exported to over 50 countries.

"We began exporting early, explains Blakey. Our very first sonar was shipped to a purse seiner in the Maritime Provinces of Canada. We have spent considerable time working with International Trade organizations and the U.S. Commerce Department, the international banking communities and others over the years. These organizations have aided us greatly in our efforts to identify trade opportunities and to export products to the fishing fleets of the world and boat yards throughout the world," said Blakey.

"We are honored to be included in such a prestigious group of nominated companies and among those who have received this award previously."

Established in 1946, the World Trade Club is one of the oldest and largest international trade organizations in Washington. Their mission is to provide a marketing and business forum for international business and to develop long-term strategic contacts to advance international business.

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Cutline for attached photo: Bruce and Cheryl Blakey received the World Trader of the Year Award from Governor Gary Locke. Bruce Blakey is President of the Company and Cheryl Blakey is Vice President of Finance.

WESMAR WESTERN MARINE ELECTRONICS

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