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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SNAP-ON TOOLS PLANT RECEIVES SILVER AWARD FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA SHINGO PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING**

*Prize recognizes world-class manufacturing strategies that achieve world-class results*

KENOSHA, Wis. (April 10, 2008) – In recognition of its success with world-class manufacturing processes, Snap-on Incorporated’s power tools plant in Murphy, N.C. was recently awarded the Silver Prize by the North Carolina Shingo Prize for Manufacturing Excellence. The Snap-on Tools plant was just one of two facilities to receive the acclaimed award.

In celebration of this achievement, tours are now being offered at the award-winning facility on the second Tuesday of every month through November. The tour is available on a pre-registration, pre-approval basis. Interested individuals should contact Ms. Jean James at (828) 456-2462 or [jean\\_james@ncsu.edu](mailto:jean_james@ncsu.edu) for more information or to register for a tour.

The North Carolina Shingo Prize program – administered by the Industrial Extension Service (IES) of North Carolina State University – provides assessments of manufacturing organizations based on the North American Shingo Prize criteria. The Silver Shingo Prize is given to organizations that have positive improvement trends in business functions and show many examples of improvement projects focusing beyond daily issues.

“We are very honored and excited to receive the highly regarded Silver Shingo Prize,” said Rob Hartman, plant manager of the Snap-on Murphy plant. “We knew that implementing lean manufacturing processes would take commitment and hard work, but we also knew that it would pay off, and it has.”

The Snap-on facility in Murphy produces a mix of Snap-on, Sioux and private brand power tools for professional users. The facility began its lean manufacturing implementation shortly after relocating from Sioux City, Iowa to Murphy in 2002. Since that time, the commitment to rapid continuous improvement and lean principles has driven significant progress in quality, sales, profits and other metrics.

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"Snap-on quickly and successfully integrated lean manufacturing into their Murphy power tool plant, allowing for improvements to be made within the organization," said Wayne Tindle, program director, NC Shingo Prize Program. "Our assessment team was impressed with the depth of world-class processes deployed in such little time."

The award-winning plant and one of its products – Snap-on's MG31 Impact Wrench – also caught the attention of the Discovery Channel's "How It's Made" producers and will be featured in an upcoming episode.

The North American Shingo Prize – hailed as the "Nobel Prize" of manufacturing – establishes the criteria used by all Shingo prize programs. Responsible for administering the North Carolina Shingo Prize, the Industrial Extension Service, an arm of North Carolina State University, supports and encourages the growth of North Carolina businesses and industries with lean enterprise and quality initiatives such as ISO management systems and Six Sigma, energy audits, environmental, safety and health management.

Snap-on Incorporated (NYSE:SNA) is a leading global innovator, manufacturer and marketer of tools, diagnostics, equipment, software and service solutions for professional users. Products and services include hand and power tools, tool storage, diagnostics software, information and management systems, shop equipment and other solutions for vehicle dealerships and repair centers, as well as customers in industry, government, agriculture, aviation and natural resources. Products and services are sold through the company's franchisee, company-direct, distributor and Internet channels. Founded in 1920, Snap-on is a \$2.8 billion, S&P 500 company headquartered in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

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