

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **U.S. Commerce Secretary Locke Recognizes Silfex As Model Ohio Manufacturer During Recent Town Hall Visit**

#### ***Silfex Success A Direct Result Of TechSolve Lean Transformation***

**CINCINNATI, June 9, 2009** – TechSolve client Silfex, a recognized global leader in the silicon growing and fabrication-related business, was recognized by U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke as an Ohio manufacturer that is committed to the U.S. and has the operational strength to remain a top competitor in these tough economic times. Locke held a town hall meeting last week at the company.

The visit solidified federal support to Ohio for its strong employee pool and manufacturing base. "Our goal is to create an environment where businesses like Silfex can thrive and create new, good-paying jobs," Secretary Locke said. "As commerce secretary, job one for me is improving the vitality of our small and medium-sized businesses all across America."

"It is important that the federal government recognizes that the manufacturing fabric of our country has many strong patches that are not only surviving, but doing very well," noted Gary Conley, president of TechSolve. "Ohio manufacturers have the talent and expertise to meet rapidly changing production demands and deliver with excellence."

Silfex (formerly Bullen Semiconductor Corp.) was identified for its extensive sustainable company-wide improvements – a direct result of its lean transformation work with TechSolve. Some of the improvements include: doubling plant size and staff, millions in cost savings, 72 percent improvement in lead time, 15 percent reduction in materials costs and a 51 percent increase in core product line production capacity.

"TechSolve brought the technical skills, experience and cultural fit that helped us quickly create capacity, improve operations and sustain results," Silfex General Manager Mike Snell said.

The Silfex Town Hall marked the first time that a White House official had visited the Eaton, Ohio, area since the Carter era. Ohio Lt. Governor Lee Fisher and U.S. Small Business Administrator Karen Mills were also in attendance. Additional organizations represented included the regional chamber of commerce, Dayton Development Coalition and representatives from industry and the financial communities.

"I want you all to know that the Obama administration is committed to revitalizing America's automotive and manufacturing base. We wouldn't have put taxpayer money on the line to intervene with GM and Chrysler, if we didn't have confidence they could emerge stronger and more competitive," Locke said at the meeting.

Through TechSolve, Silfex participated in the Commerce Department's Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP), an initiative where federal, state and local groups partner with private-sector companies to drive billions of dollars worth of gains in efficiency and productivity. Last year alone, more than 1,300 Ohio manufacturers received assistance through the MEP program.

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**About TechSolve**

During the past 25 years, Cincinnati-based TechSolve has helped small to mid-sized companies implement process improvement and advanced manufacturing solutions that deliver measurable top-line and bottom-line results. TechSolve implements Supplier Development, Lean Enterprise, and Machining Process Solutions that help companies worldwide increase profits and productivity throughout their organizations. More information is available at [www.TechSolve.org](http://www.TechSolve.org).

**About Silfex**

is the world's largest supplier of high purity custom silicon components and assemblies serving a broad base of high technology markets. A recognized global leader in the silicon growing and fabrication-related business, Silfex is a division of Lam Research Corp. Silfex operates manufacturing plants in Eaton, Ohio, and Suzhou, China. More information is available at [www.silfex.com](http://www.silfex.com).

**KEYWORDS**

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