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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) GRANT FUNDS
AWARDED TO BUSHNELL MANUFACTURER**

Good things come to those who wait....

Bushnell, IL – Vaughan & Bushnell Manufacturing (V&B) announced today that they were awarded \$373,200 in grant funds by the Green Industry Business Development and Large Customer Energy Efficiency Grant Program funded through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA). V&B is one of the largest manufacturers of hand tools (hammers, hatchets and pry bars) and is one of only two such manufacturers left in the United States. The funds will be used to purchase and install an induction system to replace their current gas-fired system. The new system will reduce energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

“The green industry is a growing employment sector that will be critical to Illinois’ continued economic growth,” said Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Director Warren Ribley. “By helping Illinois manufacturers retrofit their businesses to incorporate green technology, we are creating jobs, strengthening our economy and helping Illinois businesses grow.”

Dan Chambers, V&B Vice-President of Manufacturing is quick to point out the award of funds didn’t happen overnight. In fact, the company’s first attempt to apply for grant funding was thwarted when a consultant told him the company was ineligible under the program guidelines.

Fast forward a couple of months to March 2011 and a meeting between Chambers and Kim Pierce, Executive Director, Macomb Area Economic Development (MAEDCO). Pierce was familiar with the program and assured him that V&B was eligible and to submit an application quickly, as the deadline was fast approaching. Both Senator Sullivan and Representative Hammond provided the company with letters of support. V&B completed the application and it was hand-delivered to Springfield. Unfortunately, they received notification (in May) that due to funding constraints their proposal was not funded, but to try again. It took several months, numerous phone calls from Senator Sullivan and Representative Hammond, MAEDCO and V&B in addition to the “we’re sorry, maybe next funding cycle” conversations, but the application was approved and V&B was notified they had received the full amount requested in the application.

After being notified of the award, Senator John Sullivan said, “For over 140 years Vaughan & Bushnell Manufacturing has been designing and building hammers sold throughout the world. They compete in a global marketplace by utilizing the latest technology such as this new energy-efficient induction system. Along with their dedicated workforce, Vaughan will continue to produce high quality, American-made products for years to come.”

Representative Norine Hammond was very pleased to hear that Vaughan & Bushnell was awarded the grant funds and said, “Their continued effort to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs has been key to their success during these difficult economic times. Vaughan & Bushnell is vital to this area and we are quite fortunate to have them. I am always very happy to see DCEO funding come to our area to help bolster our economy and improve our infrastructure. In addition, we are privileged to have MAEDCO, Kim Pierce and her staff, working diligently on bringing economic growth to this area.”

Vaughan & Bushnell Manufacturing is located in Bushnell, Illinois and has 210 full time employees. Its corporate office is in Hebron, Illinois. For more information visit www.hammernet.com.