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**TBM NAMES WIKA WINNER OF 2007 “PERFECT ENGINE AWARD”
-- Manufacturer Recognized For Best Continuous Business Improvement --**

Durham, N.C. – May 14, 2007 -- TBM Consulting Group, the global business improvement leader for the manufacturing and service sectors, presented WIKA Alexander Wiegand GmbH & Co. with the fourth annual “Perfect Engine” award recognizing the company’s commitment to a continuous improvement philosophy, carried out through its lean culture and kaizen methodology. WIKA is the world’s leading manufacturer of pressure and temperature instrumentation.

“The Perfect Engine” refers to the precision interworking of human resources and physical assets to achieve outstanding productivity results that create business agility, growth and profitability. It is also the title of a book authored by TBM Consulting Group’s CEO Anand Sharma, who has consulted with hundreds of companies worldwide in implementing the Toyota Business System.

This annual award honors a manufacturer that has been mostly successful in implementing LeanSigma® methodologies, the fusion of the two most powerful business systems from Toyota (Lean) and GE (Six Sigma), throughout the entire organization and throughout its value chain. Sharma presented the award to Michael Gerster, President of WIKA Instrument Corporation at the 14th annual Executive Exchange in Salt Lake City, UT.

Celebrating the sixth anniversary of its journey, WIKA continues to use the LeanSigma approach to extensively innovate, develop and launch new products and has leveraged its competitive advantages into growth in sales and earnings. From 2001 to 2007 the company has executed more than 500 kaizen events worldwide with the following results:

- Sales revenue up 23%
- 5x increase in profit before taxes
- Rework and scrap reduced 13%
- External quality complaints reduced 60%
- Lead-times decreased from 4-6 weeks to 1-3 weeks

“WIKA achieved the Perfect Engine designation because of its proven ability to implement and leverage cutting-edge processes that facilitate agility, continuous innovation and synchronization to assure the prosperity of the enterprise,” said Sharma. “In response to the pressures of a demand economy, WIKA has demonstrated significant success gaining market share and building brand loyalty through dedication to a LeanSigma transformation and commitment to investing in the workforce.”

Headquartered in Durham, N.C., TBM Consulting Group is the leading provider of LeanSigma® Consulting and Training Services in North and South America, Europe and Asia. With more than 120 experienced consultants operating on five continents in seven languages across the globe, TBM has grown to be the worldwide leader in “lean innovation” and business improvement in the manufacturing and service sectors. The company’s mission is to help discrete and process manufacturers and service companies create a competitive advantage to generate significant growth in sales and earnings. The company provides strategic direction and hands-on implementation to guide cultural and organizational transformation. TBM Consulting Group’s LeanSigma approach integrates Lean principles for market agility and responsiveness and Six Sigma’s focus on quality. For more information visit www.tbmcg.com

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