Weck Closure Systems Wins North Carolina Governor's New Product Award

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RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C.--(BW HealthWire)--June 16, 2000--Weck Closure Systems, a unit of Teleflex Incorporated (NYSE:TFX), reports that it was presented today, in Greensboro, North Carolina, with The 2000 Governor's Award in the Large Company category--for its innovative Hem-o-lok polymer locking ligating clip.

The award is presented on the basis of a number of factors, including excellence in design and contribution to the economy of North Carolina. Companies in any industry in the state are eligible for the award.

The award was presented by Ray Denny, Director of Business and Industry Development of the North Carolina Department of Commerce at a luncheon in the Grandover Resort and Conference Center. Mr. Ray represented the Governor's office. This was the seventh annual award was partially sponsored by Professional Engineers of North Carolina in cooperation with the Governor's Office, the North Carolina Department of Commerce and the North Carolina State Industrial Extension Service.

The award was accepted for Weck by Al Hicks, Vice President of Marketing, who called the product "the clip that looks so simple, but does so much", explaining its myriad design benefits. He credited the ideal research environment of the Research Triangle Park for facilitating Hem-o-lok product development over several years. Weck moved to the Research Triangle Park from Long Island City, NY, in 1977. The Hem-o-lok product was created in close cooperation with the three universities in the Research Triangle area: Duke University, University of North Carolina, and North Carolina State University. The first two include major teaching hospitals. North Carolina State University and Duke aided with participation in an international panel of technical authorities brought to RTP to review the design, as did other leading institutions. All three universities in the Triangle continue to provide feedback and guidance on an as-needed basis as Weck extends the Hem-o-lok line. Mr. Hicks credited the Governor's office and the Department of Commerce for its progressive effort to encourage industrial relocation to the state.

The Hem-o-lok product will now be submitted to the national level for further award consideration, according to Teresa A. Helminger, Executive Director of North Carolina State University Industrial Extension Service.

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