

Tornado release

12/2/2008 10:55:19 AM

Tacony and Tornado Expand Operations into New Facilities

CHICAGO — Chicago-based Tornado Industries® and its parent company, Tacony Corporation™ announce that they will be relocating Tornado's inside sales, customer service, and production operations into new, state-of-the-art facilities.

The moves are part of a planned corporate expansion and are designed to help streamline business operations, while highlighting Tornado as Tacony's flagship commercial floor care brand.

Manufacturing, and warehousing, will be relocated to St. James, MO, near Tacony's head office in St. Louis. The company believes this centralized location in the heart of the United States will ensure that Tornado customers continue receiving speedy deliveries of products and equipment.

According to Michael Schaffer, Tornado's president, the new 200,000-square-foot manufacturing facility has been designed to be extremely cost-effective, utilizing advanced manufacturing technology that helps maximize worker productivity, allowing the company to better compete on a global scale.

"In fact, the facility is so efficient that production of our Riccar and Simplicity vacuum cleaners has moved to the U.S. from Taiwan, where they were previously manufactured," says Bill Hinderer, president of Tacony. "Now that we have doubled the size of our [St. James] facility, we can accommodate the production and distribution of Tornado's products here as well."

Tacony has already won several awards for its factory operations, which are considered some of the most sophisticated in the industry. Jim Fleming, Plant manager for the St. James facility said "We are proud to maintain world class quality levels that qualify us for ISO 9001 certification".

"This new [manufacturing] facility also has state-of-the-art testing

capabilities, allowing us to thoroughly test our equipment in 'real life' situations," says Schaffer. "This will help us maintain our goal of producing a "best in class" product line."

Inside sales and customer service will move to a newly created call center located in Tacony Corporation's Dallas/Ft. Worth facility.

A knowledgeable and experienced group of associates will be assembled at this new call center to answer questions and process orders for Tornado's customers. Schaffer indicates that the call center will also have expanded hours and more agents available to meet the growth in business that Tornado is experiencing.

Tornado's corporate offices will remain in Chicago, housing the company's marketing, purchasing, technical service, and other functions.

For more information contact Tornado's President, Michael Schaffer at 708-867-5100

About Tornado[®] a Tacony Company

Tornado Industries has been designing and engineering quality cleaning equipment for more than 80 years. The company has a long history of developing innovative products and applying the latest technology to increase productivity, reduce costs, and improve safety. Tornado prides itself on always being on the cutting edge of floor care cleaning solutions, as well as being committed to the success of its dealer network.