

## For Immediate Release

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## Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce Names Uponor, Inc. its 2007 Business of the Year

The Apple Valley (Minnesota) Chamber of Commerce recently selected Uponor, Inc. (formerly Wirsbo) as its 2007 Business of the Year. Uponor vice president Jon Mendel accepted the prestigious award, given to the company that made the greatest impact on the Apple Valley business community. Nominees in addition to Uponor were Culver's Restaurant, Provincial Bank and Eagle Valley Bank.



Uponor vice president Jon Mendel (center) receives the 2007 Business of the Year award from Apple Valley Chamber of Commerce chairman Jim Swanke (right) and president Ed Kearney.

"We're very honored to receive this award," says Mendel. "Uponor's name, systems and reputation are well-known and respected in the trades industry, and now we're being recognized in our own community where we work and live."

Uponor is headquartered in Apple Valley, with manufacturing facilities there and in New Brunswick, Canada. Founded in 1620 in Virsbo, Sweden, Uponor originated as Wirsbo, forging high-quality steel and weapons for the King of Sweden. Its current world headquarters is in Finland.

“Uponor is a model company,” Chamber President Ed Kearney comments. “With their efficient radiant floor heating, flexible PEX plumbing systems and residential fire sprinklers, they are a green solution with huge growth potential.”

The Chamber Board of Directors recognized Uponor for increasing its workforce in Apple Valley, mostly with sales, marketing and research positions. The company is investing in its business to support aggressive growth in the residential and commercial markets, focusing on current trends such as radiant cooling and sustainability.

“Uponor has been very active for years with the chamber and business community,” says Kearney. “They are heavily committed to successful development of major events and fundraisers in Apple Valley. Uponor is investing heavily into adding “Head of Household Jobs” in Apple Valley, and their new employees are considering buying homes in our community.”

Apple Valley Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland adds: “At a time when many manufacturers have been leaving the country, Uponor is leading the way into our new green economy with clean, energy-efficient manufacturing research and development techniques. Their core values are in line with our community values. They are a company that is highly environmentally minded. They certainly deserve this prestigious award, and we look forward to their continuing expansion here in Apple Valley.”

**Uponor, Inc.**, is a leading supplier of PEX-a plumbing, fire safety and radiant heating systems for the residential and commercial building markets across North America and Europe. Uponor employs 4,100 people globally. In 2006, Uponor's net sales were 1.157 billion euros, returning an operating profit of 12.4%. Uponor OYJ is listed on the Nordic Exchange in Helsinki, Finland. Uponor Inc. is headquartered in Apple Valley, Minn.

For more information, visit [www.uponor-usa.com](http://www.uponor-usa.com) or call Uponor toll-free at (800) 321-4739.

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**Hi-res version of a photograph to accompany this release** is available for immediate download in .tif format by using this link:  
<http://www.LNCmail.com/pr/up0844-coc.html>

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