



# Joint Industrial Development Authority

of Wythe County, Wytheville & Rural Retreat

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Longwood Elastomers Receives Joint IDA Special Recognition Award

WYTHEVILLE—The Joint Industrial Development Authority presented its Special Recognition Award to Longwood Elastomers, Inc., at the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce's annual membership dinner held at the Wytheville Meeting Center on November 19, 2007. Longwood Elastomers has long been an anchor of the manufacturing community in Wytheville and Wythe County. The company is annually one of the top, if not the top, manufacturing employers in Wythe County and is a strong community supporter. The company supports activities of the United Way, Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, Chautauqua Festival, and Wythe Manufacturing Council along with many other educational and cultural events.

The Wytheville plant has been one of the most effective organizations in the area in implementing the practices of lean manufacturing and has consistently increased productivity for many years. The culture of strong employee involvement and problem solving has made its local plant a top performer within the company and led to being a strong global player in its markets. Longwood Industries, Longwood Elastomers' parent company, is headquartered in Greensboro, NC. The company operates three plants in the United States and Europe producing a range of products and technology to serve the automotive, food processing, industrial, oilfield, plumbing, electrical, consumer, and pump markets. Products include airbrake diaphragms, seals, bladders, couplings, custom molded products, and extruded products. The Wytheville plant began operations in 1974 as Aeroquip.

A New Industry Recognition Award was also presented to Lane Enterprises, which is Progress Park's newest tenant. Operations will begin during the fourth quarter of 2007.

The Joint IDA will present its Industry Tenure Awards (in five year intervals) for Wythe County industries at a luncheon on January 24, 2008, at the Wytheville Meeting Center.

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