



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **North American Office Products Awards 2016**

**For release after 10.30am Thursday 21 June Eastern time.**

**Washington, DC**

The winners of the North American Office Products Awards (NAOPA) were announced at the SP Richards (SPR) ABC show in Washington, DC, on 21 June 2016.

The awards were launched in 2010 by Office Products International (OPI) in association with SPR. Now in their seventh year, these awards set the industry standard and aim to find the best business products in North America. They were judged by a panel of leading resellers and the winners were announced during a packed General Session at SPR's ABC.

**Fellowes and its AeraMax Pro AM III won the award for Product Innovation of the Year.**

#### **WHY?**

Absence at work because of sickness costs the US economy half a TRILLION dollars every year and much of that is caused by unhygienic workplaces. While much emphasis has been placed on surface cleaning, little has been done to tackle the problem of illness caused by airborne contaminants. At least until now. The AeraMax Pro is an essential health as well as a budgetary innovation for companies."

**Steve Hilleard, CEO of OPI**

#### **What was the criteria?**

##### **Innovation of the Year**

Nothing determines the success of any industry more than innovation. It is the lifeblood of our sector and without it we become commoditized. These awards seek to discover the truly innovative products and ensure they receive the recognition they deserve. "Innovations" can include products, technology solutions, significant enhancements or supply chain innovations.

The judges were looking for:

- Functionality
- Design
- Originality

- Potential to generate revenue
- Excellent supporting marketing material and content, especially video.

**The complete list of NAOPA 2016 winners:**

Best Product – Technology 2016

Kensington®

SD3600 Universal USB 3.0 Docking Station

Best Product – Cleaning & Breakroom 2016

Sealed Air Diversey Care

Consumer Brands SmartDose

Best Product – Furniture 2016

Safco Products Company

Twixt Ergonomic Chairs

Best Product – Core 2016

Avery

Easy Align Self-Laminating Labels

Product Innovation of the Year 2016

Fellowes

AeraMax Pro AM III

North American Office Products Awards are also presented for Young Executive of the Year, Professional of the Year and Industry Achievement. The winners will be announced at the Gala dinner taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> July as part of the SP Richards' ABC.

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Office Products International (OPI) is widely recognized as one of the leading media organizations for the business supplies industry, reporting to more than 40,000 readers in 112 countries. OPI provides many products and services including its flagship monthly magazine OPI, a daily news alert service via email, conferences, forums and awards programs in Europe and North America, specialist reports and market research studies, and recruitment and training.

S.P. Richards Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Genuine Parts Company (GPC: NYSE), distributes a wide spectrum of business products to office products resellers throughout the U.S. and Canada. These products include consumable office supplies, office furniture, computer supplies, consumer electronics, cleaning and breakroom supplies from all of the major industry manufacturers. S.P. Richards Company markets several private label lines under the brand names of Lorell, Integra, Sparco, Genuine Joe, Nature Saver, Compucessory, Elite Image and Business Source.

Genuine Parts Company is a distributor of automotive replacement parts in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Australasia. The Company also distributes industrial replacement parts in the U.S., Canada and Mexico through its Motion Industries subsidiary. S.P. Richards Company, the Office Products Group, distributes business products in the U.S. and Canada. The Electrical/Electronic Group, EIS, Inc., distributes electrical and electronic components throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Genuine Parts Company had 2015 revenues of \$15.3 billion.

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