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news

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSC Expands Relationship with Tooling U to Extend Metalworking Leadership

Melville, NY (May 9, 2012) — MSC Industrial Supply Co. (NYSE: MSM) today announced it has signed an agreement to create an exclusive, first-of-its-kind co-branded certificate program with Tooling U, a leader in online training for the manufacturing industry. MSC is a premier distributor of metalworking and maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) products, solutions and services for manufacturers. The company helps U.S. manufacturers thrive by providing high-quality products and solutions to maximize uptime on the production floor and reduce total MRO inventory costs. Tooling U is a company of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Together, MSC and Tooling U will develop a customized, extensive online training program that significantly advances the metalworking knowledge, skills and expertise of MSC's metalworking sales force. Every member of MSC's metalworking sales team will participate in the program and receive a certificate of completion from Tooling U that formally recognizes the depth of knowledge and skills gained through the training.

"Our customers ask us for more than just the high-quality tools and equipment at competitive prices. They are asking us to help them at the application level, to reduce their costs, increase their productivity and accelerate their time to market to meet their own customers' expectations," said Tom Cox, Executive Vice President of Sales at MSC. "MSC is excited to partner with Tooling U because expert machining skills and applications support is absolutely critical for advising customers on optimizing their manufacturing operations." According to Cox, MSC already offers customers the largest and most advanced technical team in the industry.

With more than 400 unique program titles, Tooling U offers a full range of content to train machine operators, welders, assemblers, inspectors, and maintenance professionals. Training programs are backed by on-site consultation services and live/phone/web support for ensuring complete success throughout the learning process.

MSC Continues Support of U.S. Manufacturing at Mfg4 Event

In addition to its partnership with Tooling U, MSC will underscore its support of U.S. manufacturers at the *Mfg4 Manufacturing for the Future* Exposition and Conference May 8-10. MSC will host a keynote luncheon today and introduce the luncheon's guest speaker, Alan Beaulieu, principal and president of the Institute for Trend Research (ITR), senior economic advisor to the National Association of Wholesaler- Distributors (NAW) and chief economist for Heating, Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (HARDI). MSC will also sponsor a reception today and be on hand to offer insight on how manufacturers can improve their inventory management to streamline operations and reduce costs.

About MSC Industrial Supply Co.

MSC Industrial Supply Co. is one of the largest distributors of Metalworking and Maintenance, Repair and Operations ("MRO") supplies to industrial customers throughout the United States. MSC employs one of the industry's largest sales forces and distributes approximately 600,000 industrial products from approximately 3,000 suppliers. In-stock availability is approximately 99%, with next day standard delivery to the contiguous United States on qualifying orders up until 8 p.m. Eastern Time. For more information, visit MSC's website at mscdirect.com.