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*June 2007 Newsletter*

## **Ariens Wins Whitney Award**

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) has recognized Dan Ariens, President of Ariens Co., with the Eli Whitney Productivity Award for his accomplishments in improving capability within the broad concept of orderly production. SME is the world's leading professional society serving the manufacturing industry. "I attribute this recognition to the many Ariens employees who have embraced lean manufacturing in creating a culture of continuous improvement," says Ariens. "In the process they have driven the company's annual productivity gains."

Ariens received the recognition as part of the 2007 SME's International Honor Awards presented in March in Los Angeles. Ariens Co. is considered by many in the manufacturing community a model for U.S. business leadership, according to SME, and Ariens is credited with turning his 72-year-old family business into a lean manufacturing leader.

## **Stens Expands Franzen Territory**

Stens Corp., Jasper, Ind., is now the exclusive distributor of Franzen chain sharpening machines for North, South and Central America as well as the Caribbean Islands. Stens and the German manufacturer signed an agreement in April. "This new agreement signifies a new commitment to the Franzen machine," says Peter Ariens, president of Stens. "We have installed several Franzens throughout the country and have had great feedback from our customers." The Franzen chain sharpening machine is automated to sharpen chain in minutes, is virtually maintenance free and comes with a two year warranty. Franzen user Willy Stolfus says his company, GAP Power, is on pace to sharpen 2,300 chains this year with the Franzen.