



5000 County Road #5  
Leipsic, OH 45856-9234  
Telephone (419) 943-1100  
Telefax (419) 943-1101

Twenty years ago the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award was established to promote performance excellence in businesses and organizations throughout the United States. I am extremely pleased to represent the 236 associates of Pro-Tec Coating Company as we are recognized as a 2007 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award recipient.

The award is given to organizations that demonstrate performance excellence in the following seven areas: leadership; strategic planning; customer and market focus; measurement, analysis, and knowledge management; human resource focus; process management; and results.

The Baldrige Award application process has provided our company with many learning and continuous improvement opportunities, making Pro-Tec better for the endeavor. Over the past 10 years we have created systems and improved business processes that have enhanced our ability to deliver value to our customers and provide sustainability to our associates, suppliers, parent companies, and the community.

There are many people to thank for their support in helping Pro-Tec with this achievement. Beginning with our customers who have challenged our company to be an innovative leader in advanced high strength coated steels, and our suppliers for being such valuable partners in this venture.

The state of Ohio and its people have been instrumental in our success. From the extraordinary team of associates to the support of the Ohio Partnership for Excellence, this award would not have been possible without the support of our community

Receipt of this award is also a tribute to our parent companies, Kobe Steel and United States Steel Corporation. Both companies have been committed to the success of Pro-Tec since our inception in 1990.

Finally, I extend special thanks and gratitude to the associates of Pro-Tec Coating Company for their continued commitment to performance excellence. Your spirit is revealed in the realization that this is only just the beginning of our journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Paul Worstell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

W. Paul Worstell  
President