LAKE NORMAN REGION
NORTH CAROLINA
Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Irwin Tools Moves Jobs to Huntersville

HUNTERSVILLE, NC–Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation announced that Irwin Tools recently moved its customer service center from Wilmington, Ohio to its headquarters at NorthPointe Executive Park in Huntersville.

"Over the last few months, we have hired 15 people for our customer service team in Huntersville," says Lisa Dulski, VP, Human Resources, Irwin Tools, which has an employee base of approximately 120 people at the Huntersville headquarters and more than 1000 employees worldwide. "We're saddened to lose the Wilmington employees and jobs in Ohio, but like many companies, it is necessary to create synergies that benefit our customers and the company," she adds. Benefits of the relocation to corporate headquarters include faster problem-solving, greater collaboration with other functional areas, and increased product marketing exposure. The customer service team now located in Huntersville, North Carolina supports Irwin Tools in addition to other Newell Rubbermaid brands, including Bernzomatic, Bulldog and Shur-line.

In addition to its Huntersville, North Carolina headquarters, which houses the brands noted above, as well as Rubbermaid and Rubbermaid Medical Solutions, Newell Rubbermaid operates US hubs in Chicago, Illinois and Atlanta, Georgia. The company's primary customers are Home Depot, Lowe's and Wal-Mart. The Huntersville location employs sales, supply chain, research and development, marketing, finance, human resources, administration, and now customer service.

Irwin Tools manufactures and distributes a broad line of professional-grade hand tools and power tool accessories worldwide, including VISE-GRIP® pliers and wrenches, MARATHON® saw blades, QUICK-GRIP® clamping tools, SPEEDBOR® wood-boring bits, STRAIT-LINE® marking tools, UNIBIT® step drill bits, and HANSON® taps and dies. To learn more about Irwin Tools, visit www.www.irwin.com.

As part of its existing company program, Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation also recently announced the $6 million expansion and 178 new jobs at SAERTEX USA, a German manufacturer in the Lake Norman region. To learn more about Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation's existing company program, contact:

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Since inception, Lake Norman Regional Economic Development Corporation (LNREDC) has brought **over $164 million** in new capital investment and **more than 1,000 new jobs** to the region by recruiting new businesses and helping existing industries expand. For more information, visit www.lakenormanregion.com.

~Lake Norman Region Industry Highlights~
ABB – new manufacturing company at Commerce Station Business Park /$90 million investment & 100 new jobs
SAERTEX USA – $6 million+ expansion/178 new jobs announced October 2010
Invested $6 million in equipment and added 70 employees in 2008
Microban International - $8 million expansion/45 new jobs
Kellogg – new sales and training hub at The Park – Huntersville with 35 employees
Prairie Packaging - new industry at NMIP – 240 new jobs & $48 million total industry/equipment investment
Newell Rubbermaid - $7.55 million expansion/320 new jobs over five years
Presbyterian Hospital/Huntersville – Nearly $11 million in upgrades, including a $6.1 million same-day surgery center and a $4.6 million endovascular suite for procedures like angioplasties
Metrolina Greenhouses - $50 million expansion to a total of 150 acres
Huber Technology - Expanded its U.S. headquarters to lease an additional 10,200 sq. ft. in 2009 (triples the company's footprint) with a projected revenue of $20 million in 2009. Since 2001, the company has expanded its employee base from five to 21 employees.
Ovation Wireless Management - Increased sales from $2 million to almost $3 million, expanded from 1,000 sq. ft. to 10,000 sq. ft. facility

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