



The Industry Voice for Workplace Solutions

news release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **BIFMA Elects New Directors and New President**

**Grand Rapids, MI June 21, 2010** - BIFMA is pleased to announce the election of three new members of the association's Board of Directors and the election of a new president. The Board unanimously elected Mike Mekjian, of Exemplis, Dave Scheu, of DMi, and Soren Stig-Nielsen, of Linak (Supplier Member) each to a three-year term on the Board commencing June 1, 2010.

Mike Mekjian is the Principal and Co-Founder of Exemplis Corporation. Founded in 1996, Exemplis Corp. is a leading U.S. designer, manufacturer and distributor of contract furniture for commercial, educational, healthcare, hospitality and office markets. Its brands include SitOnIt Seating and IDEON™. Mr. Mekjian also serves on the Board of Directors and as a Trustee for the Orange County High School of the Arts and is a Board Member of The Common Thread for the Cure.

Dave Scheu is President and COO of DMi Office Furniture, a manufacturer of casegoods, seating and tables. DMi Office is a division of DMi Furniture, Inc. that began operations in 1911 in Huntingburg, Indiana and has distribution center warehouses in both the mid-west and west coast.

Soren Stig-Nielsen has been President of LINAK U.S. Inc. since July 1, 1998. Before moving to the U.S., Mr. Stig-Nielsen served for 4 years as Sales & Marketing Manager

at LINAK's headquarters in Denmark. Mr. Stig-Nielsen has been involved in international sales during his entire career, including positions as Trade Commissioner to the U.S., Territory Sales Manager for John Deere Export and Export Manager for Asea Brown Boveri DK.

Stan Askren is Chairman of the Board, President and CEO of HNI Corporation. He is the new President of BIFMA International and also serves on the Board of Directors for Armstrong World Industries, the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), and is active in numerous local and civic organizations.

Stan received his MBA from Washington University; his Bachelor of Business degree from University of Northern Iowa; and, has completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. He has worked in several industries holding multiple executive management and general management positions with Emerson Electric, Thomson S.A. and HNI Corporation. Stan has been with HNI Corporation since 1992.

### **About BIFMA**

BIFMA's mission is to lead, advocate, inform and develop standards for the North American office and institutional furniture industry. BIFMA is a not-for-profit organization that provides an effective forum for Members to cooperate and collaborate on appropriate industry issues. We develop voluntary product and industry standards that support safe, healthy and sustainable environments; publish key industry statistics; advocate for legislation and government regulation that have a direct impact on the health of the industry; and facilitate meaningful dialog and education to support our core services and the industry we serve.

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