

# ALERT

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## CalChamber Receives President's Export Award

The California Chamber of Commerce has received the President's "Excellence for Export Service Award," the nation's highest award to honor U.S. exporters.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke presented the award to CalChamber Vice President of International Affairs Susanne Stirling in an afternoon ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 5.

The award was created by President John F. Kennedy via executive order in 1961 to recognize persons, firms or organizations that contribute significantly to expanding U.S. exports.

Three CalChamber members—Capstone Turbine Corporation (Chatsworth), Medtronic, Inc. (Minneapolis) and Otis McAllister, Inc. (San Francisco)—also were among the award recipients (see story on Page 4).

### CalChamber International Activities

For the last three decades, the CalChamber has been the only statewide business organization continually devoted to promoting international trade and exports.

Through its Council for International Trade, the CalChamber serves as California's voice on trade, with influence reaching well beyond its membership of 15,000 with 400 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations.

The council boosts the ability of California businesses and organizations to advocate sound international business policies via a unified group of business leaders speaking out on international

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## CalChamber Provides Updates on Important New Laws for 2010

Updates on important human resources and employment law issues that businesses must take into consideration when planning for 2010 will be covered in seminars available from the California Chamber of Commerce.

Available free to members at HRCalifornia is a recording of the 30-minute **Preview for 2010** webinar first offered on November 11 by CalBizCentral, the source for California business and human resource compliance products, presented by CalChamber.

### Overview

More than 1,100 people registered for the live version of the webinar, which provides employers with a general overview of the employment policies, processes, posters and pamphlets that should be considered in preparation for 2010, such as:

- Which 2010 tax issues businesses want to remember, including an Earned Income Tax Credit overview and employee withholding increase update from the Franchise Tax Board.
- What businesses must look for when reviewing and updating their employee handbook for 2010, including electronic media and sexual harassment policies.
- Which critical human resources and employment policies should be considered when preparing an employee training plan, including updating the

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Susanne Stirling, CalChamber vice president of international affairs, accepts the President's 'Excellence for Export Service Award' from U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke.

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issues that support California's global success, job creation and sustainability.

In addition, the CalChamber created the California Coalition for Free Trade, a broad-based group of companies and business organizations, to secure a national free trade agenda.

The CalChamber, with organizational roots dating to 1890, supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

The CalChamber also offers a variety of services to help businesses comply with complex laws and regulations, as well as compete in the international marketplace:

- trade policy engagement;
- an extensive international website at [www.calchamber.com/international](http://www.calchamber.com/international). The site outlines the CalChamber's activities to assist members with general export and

import needs, as well as covering trade legislation/issues, answers to frequently asked questions, web links to additional international trade organizations, and trade statistics. The web section enhances visitors' international knowledge through sections focusing on country trade portals, profiles in trade, trade forums and trade mission;

- a weekly e-trade newsletter, which also is available on the website; and
- an **Exporting Guide for California Businesses**, a reference tool to help companies and entrepreneurs understand the complexities of export regulations and guidelines when preparing to ship goods internationally.

### Exports Fuel GDP

The "Excellence for Export Service Award" acknowledges that employment levels throughout the country, the strength of the national economy and the nation's capacity to carry out its international responsibilities can be increased substantially by establishing

foreign markets for U.S. products and that it is in the national interest to promote and expand the export trade of the United States.

World gross domestic product (GDP) and world merchandise exports not only move in tandem, but export growth exceeds GDP growth, according to the World Trade Organization's recent Annual Compilation of International Trade Statistics.

In 2008, the United States exported more than \$1.3 trillion and remained a top exporter on the world scene. California is one of the top export states; exports exceeded \$144 billion in goods, more than 11 percent of total U.S. exports, in 2008.

California is one of the 10 largest economies in the world with a gross state product of more than \$1.7 trillion. International-related commerce accounts for approximately one-quarter of the state's economy.

**Staff Contact: Susanne Stirling**

## CalChamber Members Win President's Export Award

Three of the 21 companies receiving the President's "Excellence for Export Service Award" this month are members of the California Chamber of Commerce.



### ● Capstone Turbine Corporation.

Capstone Turbine Corporation (Chatsworth) produces low-emission microturbine systems, and was first to market with commercially viable microturbine energy products. Capstone Turbine has shipped thousands of Capstone MicroTurbine systems to customers worldwide.

The company has seen a large increase in sales overseas. It increased its export sales by 266 percent over the last four years and has seized opportunities in markets in Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Capstone Turbine also has been a delegate on several U.S. government trade missions over the years, including missions to China, India and Vietnam.

● **Medtronic, Inc.** Headquartered in Minneapolis, Medtronic Inc. is a leader in medical technology, serving patients and partners with medical professionals in 120 countries.

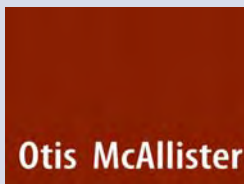


Since opening its first Bakken Education Center in Minneapolis in 1990, Medtronic has added 21 centers in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

Thousands of medical professionals visit the facilities every year to gain hands-on experience with the latest medical technologies.

● **Otis McAllister, Inc.** This global food company provides a wide range

of services worldwide to a substantial and diversified client base that includes club stores, traditional and non-traditional retail, and food service.



The company, which operates on six continents and in more than 100 countries from its San Francisco headquarters, saw export sales increase by more than 22 percent between 2005 and 2008.

In 2009, Otis McAllister sponsored orphanages in India and supported "Saving Girls," sustainability and leading corporate social responsibility programs overseas and in the United States