



NEWS RELEASE

**Mechanical Contractors Association
of America, Inc.**
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Shinn Mechanical Earns E. Robert Kent Award for Management Innovation

ROCKVILLE, MD—The Mechanical Contractors Association of America, Inc. (MCAA) presented its E. Robert Kent Award for Management Innovation to Shinn Mechanical during the Awards of Excellence Breakfast at the association's annual convention in Scottsdale, Arizona. The award showcases ideas that are unique and effective in overcoming management challenges in mechanical, service and plumbing contractors' businesses.

Shinn Mechanical, located in Bellevue, WA, received the award for its Articulating Weld Boom. This innovation was developed specifically for the company's new pipe fabrication shop. The boom is of lattice-style design, constructed of steel, extending from a 20-inch diameter steel column, and is comprised of three sections with pivot points between each section.

This design allows the working end to move and be placed within a 30-foot radius of the base. A welding machine is suspended from the end of the boom; mounts for grinders are also included. The boom is fitted with electrical wiring for the welding machine, power for the grinder/ convenience outlet, compressed air, argon, welding gases, water cooling for the weld torch, and a plug-in for foot control of the pipe positioners.

Shinn fabricators may perform any type of welding, including TIG, without cords or hoses on the floor. An additional feature—a point-of-use exhaust hood—removes gases and smoke, filters the

exhaust and recirculates the cleaned air into the shop. The innovation promotes operational efficiency, safety, and improved environmental quality of the worksite.

Mike D. Shinn, president of Shinn Mechanical, accepted the award from John Stern of Dahme Industries, who is the chairman of MCAA's Management Methods Committee, and MCAA President Jack Wilhelmi.

For additional information about MCAA's E. Robert Kent Award for Management Innovation, contact Ann Mattheis at amattheis@mcaa.org.

The Mechanical Contractors Association of America, Inc. (MCAA) serves the unique needs of approximately 2,500 firms involved in heating, air conditioning, refrigeration, plumbing, piping, and mechanical service. We do this by providing our members with high-quality educational materials and programs to help them attain the highest level of managerial and technical expertise. MCAA includes the Mechanical Service Contractors of America, the Plumbing Contractors of America, the Manufacturer/Supplier Council, the Mechanical Contracting Education and Research Foundation and the National Certified Pipe Welding Bureau.

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