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**Golden Toolbox HVACR Industry Award Presented to Joel Owen
*Third Recipient Announced at Comfortech***

(September 15, Arlington, Va.) — Rex Boynton, president of North American Technician Excellence (NATE), and Michael Weil, editor-in-chief of *Contracting Business* magazine, presented the Golden Toolbox award to long-time HVACR industry leader, Joel Owen of Alabama Public Power at Comfortech show in Atlanta, GA.

The Golden Toolbox award is awarded annually to an individual in the HVACR industry who has demonstrated exemplary service, support and advocacy for technician certification. Boynton says, "The award specifically recognizes the accomplishments of those who work 'in the field,' whether it's in manufacturing, the service industry or media. We clearly have a deserving recipient in Joel as he exemplifies the type of dedicated individual who makes this a more vibrant and professional industry."

Owen's career in the HVACR industry spans 32. He has earned eight technician certifications along with an Alabama State Board of Heating and Air Conditioning contractor's license. He is a certified Residential Mechanical Ventilation instructor for HRAI of Canada and a member of Refrigeration Service Engineers Society (RSES) as well as serving on the ICE (Industry Competence Exam) committee for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI); the ACCA Education Summit Subcommittee; the technical committee for NATE; and as a site evaluator for Partnership for Air Condition, Heating, Refrigeration Accreditation. He also serves as Chairperson of the Technical Committee for the HVACR SkillsUSA, State of Alabama competition.

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“I’m very honored that my peers would bestow this award on me,” says Owen. “It’s a real privilege to continue to play a role in promoting education, certification and professionalism in the heating, cooling and refrigeration industry.”

Headquartered in Arlington, Va., NATE was founded in 1997 as the nation’s largest non-profit certification organization for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration technicians. NATE and Contracting Business magazine sponsor the annual Golden Toolbox award.

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Joel Owen of Alabama Power was presented with the Golden Toolbox award at Comfortech 2008 for his tireless dedication to overall excellence in HVACR service, support and advocacy. Rex Boynton), representing North American Technician Excellence (NATE), along with Contracting Business magazine representatives Michael Weil editor-in-chief; and Joe Fristik, group publisher, sponsor the annual award.