

Press Release

AAP St. Marys Corporation

RE: Launch of new wheels for 2005 Ford Escape/Mazda Tribute

January 30, 2004

AAP St. Marys Corporation has recently begun production of a large new contract for Ford Motor Company. AAP will be supplying 8 different styles of cast aluminum wheels for the redesigned 2005 model Ford Escape/Mazda Tribute, which is launching this month. The total volume for this program is expected to be around 80,000 wheels per month.

AAP previously supplied wheels for the first generation Escape/Tribute in the 2001~2004 model years. AAP Vice President Randy Wendel explained, "The Escape/Tribute is a compact SUV that was introduced in the 2001 model year. At the time of the original launch, we were expecting something like 10,000 wheels per month. However the demand increased dramatically, and over the past few years, this has become the largest wheel program ever at AAP. Now we are very happy that based on our quality, delivery, and cost, Ford has chosen us to supply the next generation, at even higher volume."

AAP is also preparing to launch additional new wheels for both Ford and other major customers later this year, and has recently begun yet another capacity expansion. In this latest expansion, AAP expects to invest about \$6 million in new equipment, and create 10 new jobs. AAP began operations in St. Marys in 1988, and has expanded several times over the past 16 years.