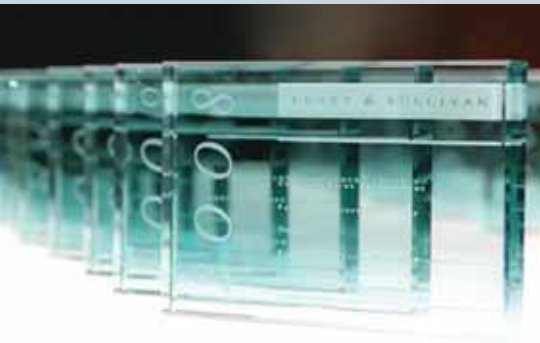


Flexitallic®

**Flexitallic LP: Recipient of the
2008 North American Gaskets Product Value Leadership of the Year Award**



Pictured from left to right: Jerry Lastovica, President & CEO, Flexitallic LP and Art Robbins, President, North America, Frost & Sullivan

“We accelerate growth.”

2008 North American Gaskets Product Value Leadership of the Year Award Award Recipient: Flexitallic LP

Award Description

The Frost & Sullivan Product Value Leadership of the Year Award for the safety solution in the process industry domain is given every year to the solution that has provided customers with the highest ratio for value-to-cost. This solution should be of high quality, with a very high value addition to customers. The solution is ranked for its features and its competitive advantage in the industry. On revealing exceptional responses to needs of customers, the solution continues to improve the uptime for the process thereby positively impacting the profitability of customers.

Research Methodology

To choose the recipient of this Award, the analyst team tracks industry participants and monitors the various ways in which customer value is enhanced on an ongoing basis. The Award recipient is selected based upon extensive research collected from key market participants, secondary and technology sources, and customer interviews. Collected data is then cross tabulated to find the number one ranking company.

Measurement Criteria

In addition to the methodology described above, there are specific criteria used in determining the final ranking of industry competitors. The recipient of this Award has excelled based on the following criteria:

- Maximizing profitability and minimizing the ownership costs to customers.
- Consistent quality and reliability.
- Technology excellence as compared to its peer products in the industry.
- Increase in customer value by greater responsiveness to customer needs and by addressing customer feedback.
- Significance of solution to the industry and its value addition to customers.

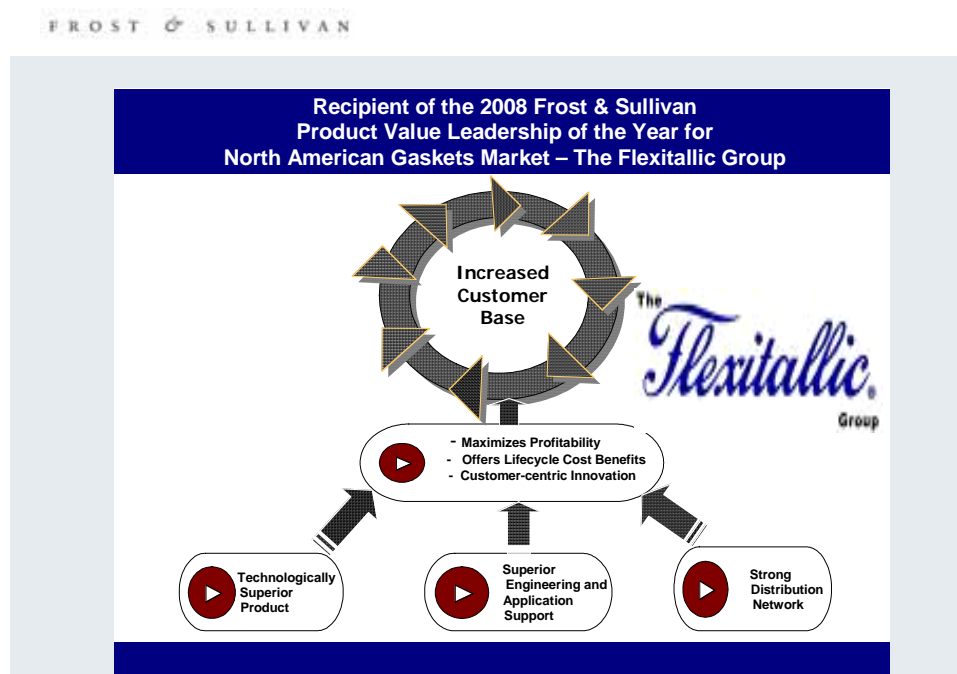
The logo for Flexitallic, featuring the word "Flexitallic" in a stylized, cursive blue font with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.

The 2008 Frost & Sullivan Product Value Leadership of the Year award for North American Gaskets Market is presented to The Flexitallic Group (Flexitallic). The award is in recognition of the company's comprehensive product line of gaskets that offer excellent sealing under intense temperature, pressure and chemical environments. Customers recognize Flexitallic as the most preferred solution provider for gaskets due to company's unmatched expertise in varied end-user plant operations. Flexitallic's excellent co-ordination with field sales and design teams has resulted in development of an innovative family of gasket products, Thermiculite®. Thermiculite® delivers maximum value to customers by reducing the total cost of ownership and improving the process yields. Thermiculite® is a perfect illustration of customer-centric innovation that offers extended lifecycle cost benefits for its customers. Flexitallic's constant drive to aid its customers to reduce fugitive emissions has helped the company establish itself as a primary choice of process industries.

A major challenge faced by end-users in process industries is the premature failure of gaskets, which consequently results in operational performance issues. Flexitallic's Thermiculite® has helped end-users overcome this challenge by providing exceptional inertness to any chemical environment by being completely impervious to degradation. Thermiculite® can endure up to 1950°F for extended period of time without any drop in performance, which is considered to be an industry-wide benchmark. A case

in point is that of a North American nitric acid plant process owner who has experienced minimized downtime, maintenance expenditure and reduced leakage after employing a Thermiculite® gasket.

Gasket manufacturers are often challenged to offer products that are reliable even in extreme temperature and pressure. Until recent times, graphite has been the only material operational above 850°F, but it will oxidize and degrade above 850° resulting in leakage of fluid from the flange, consequently offering lower yield from the refining or chemical process and unscheduled shutdowns. Flexitallic's distinctive product family, Thermiculite®, operates under a higher temperature range of up to 1950°F without degradation or oxidation, thus providing the customers with reliable and leak-proof flange joints. The product's capability to operate in extreme temperature ranges aids in better mean time between replacement (MTBR) of the flanged joint, thus maximizing the productivity from the plant's processes and reducing the lifecycle costs incurred on the gasket. The fact that 'a chemical plant in North America' has drastically improved the gasket replacement cycle from sixteen weeks to two years after employing Thermiculite®, clearly testifies the product to be the industry hallmark. The product's wide-spread acceptance has helped the company to penetrate not only across process domains, but also in safety critical domains such as nuclear and avionics.



Source: Frost & Sullivan

Thermiculite®'s excellent sealing ability prevents the leakage of fluid or gas from flanges, consequently helping its customers in reducing the overall plant emissions. In addition, Thermiculite® has lower disposal and recycling concerns due to absence of volatile organic compounds, consequently enabling Flexitallic to be environment friendly in its internal production processes, which are relatively simple, leading to superior operational excellence for Flexitallic.

Thermiculite®'s soft conformable material helps seal flange irregularities, and Thermiculite®'s exceptional inertness and stability in harsh chemical environment prevents leaks which may lead to flash fires at flange joints, and thus reduces safety concerns for customers. Thermiculite®'s superior sealing ability and excellent performance characteristics has helped it grow by more than 10.0 percent in 2008 while the gaskets market is growing at 3.5 percent.

A testimony to Flexitallic's ability to deliver outstanding customer value is its capability to provide continual application support for its end-users. Customers consider Flexitallic as a pioneer in technology in designing the appropriate gasket for crucial applications. A case in point is that of a major chemical plant that sought Flexitallic's expertise in reducing the mid-cycle shutdown of the plant

due to gasket deterioration. Flexitallic's Thermiculite® has not only eliminated the intermittent plant shutdown, but also has extended the gasket life. The company's continuous efforts to strengthen its customer base can be testified by its technical trainings offered for its distributors. The company's vision to nurture customer-need driven innovations has enabled it to significantly penetrate in original equipment manufacturers (OEM) markets.

Flexitallic enhances the safety of the equipments, personnel and process due to the product's inert characteristic. Flexitallic has shown exceptional response to the customer needs, which is evident from its products and application support that enhance the value-to-cost proposition for its customers. Flexitallic's Thermiculite® family of products offers excellent lifecycle cost benefits, better sealing ability and competitive operational advantage and thus making it a worthy recipient of the 2008 Frost & Sullivan Product Value Leadership of the Year for North American Gaskets Market.

About Frost & Sullivan

Frost & Sullivan, the Growth Partnership Company, partners with clients to accelerate their growth. The company's TEAM Research, Growth Consulting and Growth Team Membership™ empower clients to create a growth-focused culture that generates, evaluates and implements effective growth strategies. Frost & Sullivan employs over 45 years of experience in partnering with Global 1000 companies, emerging businesses and the investment community from more than 30 offices on six continents. For more information about Frost & Sullivan's Growth Partnerships, visit <http://www.awards.frost.com>.

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