



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Continental Girbau Inc. hosted 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Sept. 23-24

Oshkosh, Wis.--Continental Girbau Inc. (Continental) recently held a two-day celebration marking its 20<sup>th</sup> year in business. Formed in 1995 as Girbau S.A.'s North American subsidiary, Continental has grown to become an industry-leading provider of on-premise, vended and industrial laundry solutions, according to Continental President Mike Floyd.

More than 150 business partners, staff, distributors, community officials and friends participated in Continental's anniversary celebration, in Oshkosh, Wis., Wednesday and Thursday, Sept. 23 and 24. Wednesday's events included an open house and tour at Continental's headquarters, followed by a presentation and reception at the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air Venture Museum. Keynote speakers included Floyd; Mercé Girbau (Girbau), co-CEO, Girbau S.A.; Brian Wallace, president and CEO, Coin Laundry Association (CLA); John Casper, president and CEO, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce; and John Riddle, senior vice president, LG Home Appliances.

"The formation of Continental came before I joined Girbau S.A.," said Girbau. "But I know it took a lot of negotiation between my father, Santi Carol, Len Kafer and Mike Floyd. My father wanted to establish distribution in the United States. Today, Continental accounts for 25 percent of Girbau's total sales."

Floyd went on to describe the challenges and joys involved with helping launch a company from scratch and thanked Continental's business partners, staff, parent company and distributors for their support and help along the way. The company's six original employees were also recognized for 20 years of service. Five of the six still serve Continental; one has retired.

"I remember the first day at Continental," Floyd said. "I sat on the floor of a vacant office building and wondered what I'd gotten myself into." Continental, according to Floyd, grew quickly into an industry leader – and over the years – introduced multiple products, brands and divisions.

Representing the CLA, Wallace thanked Continental for its years of service – noting the work of Floyd and Continental Vice President Joel Jorgensen. Floyd served the CLA for a decade as a board member and chairman; Jorgensen currently serves as treasurer elect.

Representing the Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Casper similarly praised Continental for its service to the Oshkosh community, and Floyd for his tenure as a Chamber board member.

Lastly, Riddle spoke on behalf of LG Electronics. As the U.S. provider of LG commercial laundry equipment, "Continental is a trusted and dependable partner," said Riddle.

The celebration continued throughout the next day – Thursday – with a group tour of Lambeau Field/Packer Hall of Fame, in Green Bay, Wis., and golf outing in Green Lake, Wis. A riverside tailgate party at the BEST WESTERN PREMIER Waterfront Hotel, in Oshkosh, culminated the event.

Continental has ballooned since 1995 – expanding product offerings; serving new niche markets; establishing new brands, divisions and subsidiaries; investing in facility expansions and

additions; expanding its professional distributor network; and continuing its commitment to environment, community, service and quality. In two decades, revenue has grown substantially – by 22 percent from 2001 to 2006; by 34 percent from 2006 to 2011; and by 21 percent from 2011 to 2014. Similarly, so has Continental's product offering. Altogether, Continental provides 90 individual laundry products engineered for a variety of unique laundry systems.

Locally, the company supports organizations in need; partners with and supports Oshkosh area hotels, restaurants, printers, photographers and schools; and owns and runs a local business – the Express Laundry Center – a full-service, card- and coin-operated, high-speed laundry.

Success, according to Floyd is the simple result of committed hard work and the development and nurturing of personal relationships.

To find out more about Continental visit [www.continentalgirbau.com](http://www.continentalgirbau.com) or call 800-256-1073.

Continental Girbau Inc. is the largest of 14 subsidiaries of the Girbau Group, based in Vic, Spain. Girbau laundry products – marketed throughout 90 countries worldwide – meet rigorous environmental and safety standards established by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Girbau S.A. holds both ISO9001 and ISO14001 certifications. Ever focused on laundry efficiency, Continental Girbau is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGB), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.



The Continental Girbau Inc. team celebrates the company's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Oshkosh, Wis.



During Continental's open house, guests enjoyed facility and showroom tours. Pictured, from left, are Victor Aguirre, of Centrax, in Mexico City; Mercé Girbau and Santi Carol, of Girbau S.A., in Vic, Spain; and Joel Jorgensen, of Continental Girbau Inc., in Oshkosh, Wis.



Continental President Mike Floyd engages visitors during Continental's open house and reception.



Mercé Girbau, co-CEO of Girbau S.A., thanks Continental business partners, distributors and staff.



Nearly 150 guests enjoyed Continental's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary presentation and reception, held at the Experimental Aircraft Association's (EAA) Air Venture Museum, in Oshkosh, Wis.



Continental's six original employees were recognized for 20 years of service. Five of the six still serve Continental and are pictured here. The sixth, retired Continental President Len Kafer, was not present. Pictured, from left, are Gary Clark, technical services division manager; Santi Carol, export vice president Girbau S.A.; Laurie Kilgore, customer care manager; Mike Floyd, president; Kelly Zabel, director of finance administration and human services; Mercé Girbau, co-CEO Girbau S.A.; and Jay Leitz, inventory control and operations logistics manager.