



**For immediate release**  
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### **Symposium to Feature Phoenix Expert**

PHOENIX, March 6, 2003 – The Tube & Pipe Association (TPA) of Rockford, Ill., has selected Phillip Blackerby, principal of Blackerby Associates and a Phoenix manufacturing consultant, to speak at the Tube & Pipe Journal Symposium on Monday, March 17, at the Radisson Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The TPJ Symposium, the tube and pipe manufacturing industry’s national conference, starts Sunday, March 16, and runs through Tuesday, March 18. This year’s conference theme is “Competitive Strategies for Tube and Pipe Leaders.”

Blackerby’s Monday address is titled “Lean Manufacturing and Your Bottom Line.” “Most tube and pipe manufacturers are familiar with the basics of lean manufacturing,” Blackerby said, “But they want to see how lean manufacturing improvements actually show up on their profit statement. We’re going to show how lean practices help increase margins, drive out waste, lower cost, eliminate inventories, increase customer responsiveness and maximize the productivity of people and equipment.”

## **About the TPJ Symposium**

The TPJ Symposium is sponsored by North America's only metal tube and pipe magazine, *TPJ – The Tube & Pipe Journal*, the official publication of the Tube & Pipe Association. TPA is the technology affiliate of the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association, and is dedicated to serving the educational needs of tube and pipe producers and fabricators worldwide. More information is available at [www.tpatube.org](http://www.tpatube.org), or by calling 815-399-8775.

## **About Blackerby Associates**

Blackerby Associates helps organizations transform into high-performance enterprises. As experts in management and organizational development, Blackerby Associates provides a single source for organizational transformation and improvement services. More information is available at [www.BlackerbyAssoc.com](http://www.BlackerbyAssoc.com), or by calling 602-908-1082.

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