



Georgia District Office

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Rankin Hobbs, CEO of KaMin LLC of Macon Is Georgia's 2011 Small Business Exporter of the Year *--Company is largest exporter of high quality kaolin clay--*

Rankin Hobbs was honored today as Georgia's 2011 Small Business Exporter of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Hobbs company, KaMin LLC of Macon, exports about 60 percent of its production of kaolin clay to customers in more than 50 countries.

Hobbs received his award from Terri Denison, SBA Georgia District Director, at an Atlanta luncheon hosted by the Georgia Lenders Quality Circle, a group of active SBA bankers and other small business lenders. Hobbs was nominated for his award by Rick Martin, Director of the Georgia Small Business Development Center's International Trade Center.

Hobbs will represent Georgia as the state's top exporter during National Small Business Week, May 18-20. The week will mark the 58th anniversary of the SBA and the 48th annual proclamation of National Small Business Week.

KaMin, based in Macon, is an exporter of kaolin clay and operates mines and processing plants at three locations in middle Georgia. Hobbs has been an executive in the industrial minerals industry for 11 years and serves as both CEO of KaMin LLC and a founding partner of IMin Partners, a business that invests in industrial minerals and specialty chemicals.

"Over the course of its existence, this small company has literally transformed itself through exporting from a minor regional supplier of kaolin clay into a global leader in its industry," observed Martin.

Hobbs, who received an MBA from the University of Texas, spent 7 years with several investment firms on Wall Street before he established IMin Partners with Tom Chambers, a veteran of the industrial minerals business. He also received a BA in Economics from Vanderbilt University.

KaMin has some 360 employees. Its four largest export markets are Japan, China, Finland and Canada. In terms of tonnage, KaMin is the largest exporter out of the Ports of Georgia.

During his career, Hobbs has served on a number of private and public service boards. He is chairman of the Agape Clinic, a health care clinic serving the underprivileged of Dallas. He is also on the board of the Hicks Muse Furst Tate Center for Private Equity at the University of Texas.

Hobbs and his wife LuAnne have three children.

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