



CPAs, Consultants & Advisors  
www.larsonallen.com

**Contact:**

**Kevin Kirsch**

phone: 612-376-4656

fax: 612-376-4850

220 South Sixth Street, Suite 300

Minneapolis, MN 55402-1436

[kkirsch@larsonallen.com](mailto:kkirsch@larsonallen.com)

[www.larsonallen.com](http://www.larsonallen.com)

## News Release

### **New Hires Bring a Lean Approach and International Expertise to Manufacturing**

*For immediate release*

**MINNEAPOLIS—February 12, 2009—**Rob Tracy and Craig Arends have joined LarsonAllen as manufacturing and distribution principals.

Rob Tracy has a proven track record of leading transformational change and generating dramatic operational improvements. “Tracy’s experience as CEO of a mid-sized manufacturing company and his deep knowledge on lean manufacturing gives him a perspective and practical approach that our clients will find valuable, particularly in a climate where manufacturers are feeling challenged more than ever,” says Erik Skie, principal-in-charge of manufacturing and distribution at LarsonAllen.

At LarsonAllen, Tracy will help clients generate operational performance improvement through strategic planning, lean implementation, and supply chain strategy. “Downturns are full of opportunities,” says Tracy. “For many manufacturers, production is down. This gives them a chance to reposition, become more competitive, and invest in long-term growth. I intend to help them with that.”

As the principal-in-charge of business and risk advisory services, Craig Arends will be leading a group of professionals committed to helping companies transform their performance and sustain that improvement over time. Arends has more than 17 years of international experience with Big Four firms, and is returning to LarsonAllen after four years of leading Ernst and Young’s capital markets division in Moscow. While in Russia, he advised clients on raising equity, debt, and mergers and acquisitions.

“Arends has extraordinary technical breadth and depth across the field of international accounting and transaction services. His broad international exposure enables him to translate industry trends into planning opportunities for our manufacturing clients. His transaction experience is especially critical at a time where more and more of our manufacturing clients will be planning for ownership succession” says Skie.

LarsonAllen LLP (LarsonAllen) is a professional service firm that provides assurance, accounting, tax, consulting, and advisory services to organizations and individuals managing business ventures and finance. Founded in 1953, LarsonAllen’s certified public accountants, consultants, and advisors are dedicated to providing quality results to clients. LarsonAllen has 1,400 people and \$203 million in annual revenues. Offices are located in Arizona, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington DC, and Wisconsin. LarsonAllen is an independent member of Nexia International, a top 10 worldwide network of independent accounting and consulting firms. Founded in 1971, Nexia provides a global network of independent auditors, business advisors, and consultants.

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