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## **Gary Kelly to be Honored as IRTA Executive of the Year**

ALEXANDRIA, VA, March 11, 2009 – Gary Kelly, Senior Director, Transportation & Distribution at Schwan's Logistics LLC, will be honored as the International Refrigerated Transportation Association (IRTA) Executive of the Year at the IARW-WFLO-IRTA Annual Convention & Expo, 28 March – 2 April 2009 in Palm Springs, California, USA.

The award recognizes an individual in the refrigerated transportation industry who has made a significant contribution to the industry by fostering innovation, looking beyond the boundaries of his/her company, resolving industry issues, or improving the industry's image and efficiency.

Kelly's innovation and forward-thinking helped realign Schwan's supply chain. He has worked diligently to foster strong relationships with third-party logistics providers, from warehouses to carriers.

"We are honored to bestow this well-deserved award upon Gary Kelly," said Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA) President and CEO Bill Hudson. "His work and contributions truly represent excellence in the cold chain." IRTA is a Core Partner within GCCA.

At the convention, Kelly will also participate in a customer panel discussion called "Brave New World - How the Economy is Changing Your Customer" on 31 March 2009. The panel will provide insights from industry leaders on the actions their

companies are taking to achieve operational efficiencies and meet challenges in today's economic climate.

Kelly has been employed at Schwan's since 2000, where he currently works to strengthen the company's profitability by implementing logistics efficiencies within physical distribution, transportation, inventory management and order fulfillment functions. He also oversees the day-to-day operations of the company's four distribution centers, the over-the-road private delivery fleet, as well as contracting for and managing services provided by third-party warehouse and truck-carrier alliances. Earlier, Gary served as the director of transportation with Dominos Pizza Distribution. He earned a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University.

IRTA members nominate candidates for the Executive of the Year award and winners are selected by the IRTA Board of Directors.

IRTA is an international, non-profit organization established in 1994 to meet a growing demand in the transportation industry for chilled and frozen food products. IRTA has a core international membership of companies involved in the refrigerated transportation industry that primarily includes ports and companies involved in trucking, warehousing/logistics, marine shipping, rail, and air.

Members also include businesses that are engaged in refrigerated food logistics, such as attorneys, claim agents, carriers, equipment suppliers, receivers, and consignees. IRTA provides a forum for the interchange of information and ideas for companies involved with transportation of frozen or chilled perishable products such as flowers, fruits, beverages, fish, meat, poultry, or dairy products.

For more information about the award and the IARW-WFLO-IRTA Annual Convention & Expo, visit [www.irta.org/convention](http://www.irta.org/convention) or call +1 703 373 4300.

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