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### **Mike Jackson Honored with ASPI Customer Executive of the Year Award**

The Association of Suppliers to the Paper Industry (ASPI) has named Verso Paper Corp.'s Mike Jackson as its 2009 ASPI Customer Executive of the Year. Jackson serves as President and CEO of Verso Paper Corp.

The Customer Executive of the Year Award is the highest honor that ASPI can bestow on an individual. It is granted to a paper industry executive who has demonstrated extraordinary effectiveness in working with a range of suppliers to enhance productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness of his or her company using a wide spectrum of supplied products and services.

ASPI President David Withers commented "We are pleased to honor this long-time industry veteran. Mike has a reputation for fairness and integrity in his dealings with suppliers." Jackson responded, "I would like to thank ASPI for this award. Never in our industries' history has it been more important for suppliers and customers to work more closely to improve our respective results. We at Verso pride ourselves not only on collaborating with our suppliers, but also making quick decisions to execute good ideas."

Based in Memphis, Tennessee, Verso Paper Corp. is a leading North American producer of coated papers, including coated groundwood and coated freesheet, and supercalendered and specialty products. Prior to joining Verso, Jackson held various leadership roles in his 29-year career with Weyerhaeuser. Additional information about Verso is available at [www.versopaper.com](http://www.versopaper.com).

ASPI is the leading association of companies that supply products and or services to the pulp, paper and board industry. Member participation consists primarily of CEO's, owners, and senior management executives. ASPI's mission is to assist its member supplier companies in providing increased economic benefits to their customers through collective knowledge, initiatives and efforts. ASPI's unique value proposition is a combination of compelling program content and an influential business network.

**Caption for accompanying photo:** Left to right: ASPI Vice President Bob Gallo (President – Voith Paper North America); Customer Executive of the Year recipient Mike Jackson, President and CEO of Verso Paper Corp.; ASPI President David Withers (President – Coldwater Group), and ASPI Board of Director Member Rod Fisher (President – Fisher International).

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