

The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market<sup>®</sup> Showrooms: January 10-17, 2017 Temporaries: January 12-16, 2017 and The Atlanta International Area Rug Market® featuring the National Oriental Rug Show January 11-15, 2017

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **RECORD-BREAKING NEW AND INTERNATIONAL BUYER** INCREASES AT ATLANTA WINTER MARKET

ATLANTA - January 17, 2017 - The Atlanta January Market closes its eight-day run today with an expansive global customer base, record-breaking new-buyer registrations and international attendance increases—all achieved in the face of weather impediments around the U.S. marking its 60th-anniversary staging, according to Jeffrey L. Portman, Sr., vice chairman, president and chief operating officer.

Atlanta's January advances produced a climate of resurgent business optimism and vitality in the first and largest show of the U.S. winter market season and set the precedent for a radically redefined and reimagined AmericasMart July Market experience, Portman adds.

The January Market registered the vast majority of America's celebrated Top 100 retailers, together with designers, specifiers, online merchants, independent retailers, trend setters, tastemakers and high-profile buying groups from every U.S. state and 81 nations worldwide.

"The buying power and global brands doing business here in January set the new bar for market performance—here and everywhere," notes Kim Higgins, AmericasMart Gift & Home Furnishings Advisory Board chairman and founder and principal of 225 Unlimited. "Customer confidence was strong and sustained across every category and floor. The buyers were here, ready to buy, and they bought big," Higgins added.

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With the July 2017 Market opening day less than six months away, the march is on to an Atlanta summer show that will give buyers and sellers an experience grounded in the full resources of the world's single-largest product mix, newly enhanced with a sweeping multi-media platform, an industry interactive environment offering new engagement with thought leaders and business trend creators and the annual staging of ICON HONORS, the most important and anticipated night in the home and gift industry.

## ABOUT AMERICASMART

AmericasMart Atlanta is the nation's only global wholesale marketplace housing the world's single-largest collection of home, gift, area rug and apparel merchandise. The largest of AmericasMart's 16 annual Markets and shows, The Atlanta International Gift & Home Furnishings Market and The Atlanta International Area Rug Market in January and July are the ignition switch for global retailing with buyers from every U.S. state and as many as 80 countries discovering product in more than 1,500 showrooms and more than 3,000 temporary exhibiting companies. <u>ICON HONORS</u>, the home and gift industry's most celebrated recognition program, is produced and staged annually by AmericasMart.

Located in downtown Atlanta, the AmericasMart complex contains more than seven million square feet of space. It's a huge global stage on which manufacturers, designers and sales representatives unveil new lines, launch new designs and introduce new categories – all for the benefit of buyers seeking all that is fresh and first in the home, rug, gift and apparel arenas. For more information, please visit <u>www.AmericasMart.com</u>.

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