

# ***THE MIDDLEBY CORPORATION***

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## **Magdy Albert Promoted to Executive Vice President of the Middleby Food Processing Group**

Elgin, Ill. (March 13, 2008) – The Middleby Corporation (NASDAQ: MIDD) today announced the promotion of Magdy Albert to Executive Vice President of the Food Processing Group. In this expanded role, Magdy will be responsible for oversight of all business divisions within the Food Processing Group, including Alkar, Rapidpak, and MP Equipment, and play a critical role in leading the expansion of this business platform. He will continue to report directly to company Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Selim A. Bassoul.

Mr. Bassoul commented, “Magdy was named Division President of our Alkar and Rapidpak businesses shortly after their acquisition in December 2005. Under his leadership we have made significant gains in productivity and profitability, resulting in an increase in operating income from approximately 5% at the time of acquisition to over 20% in fiscal 2007. Additionally, Magdy has been instrumental in the development of new product innovations at these businesses.”

Mr. Bassoul continued, “Magdy will play a strategic role leading Middleby’s effort to further expand our Food Processing Group through new product introduction and potential acquisitions. He will also oversee the operations of these businesses to ensure we realize potential sales, engineering and manufacturing, synergies amongst the business units in this group.”

Albert is a 25-year veteran of the foodservice equipment industry where he held several leadership positions in operations and engineering management. He joined Middleby in 2003 as vice president of operations and general manager for the company’s Middleby Marshall division, based in Elgin, Ill., and lead the development of WOW! Oven. In 2006, Magdy was promoted to Division President of Alkar Rapidpak. Prior to joining Middleby, Albert was general manger of the steam division of Vulcan Hart, an Illinois Tool Works company. Albert holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in mechanical engineering from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt.

The Middleby Corporation is a global leader in the foodservice equipment industry. The company develops, manufactures, markets and services a broad line of equipment used for commercial food cooking, preparation and processing. The company's leading equipment brands serving the commercial foodservice industry include Blodgett®, Blodgett Combi®, Blodgett Range®, Bloomfield®, Carter Hoffmann®, CTX®, Holman®, Houno®, Jade®, Lang®, MagiKitch'n®, Middleby Marshall®, Nu-Vu®, Pitco Frialator®, Southbend®, Star®, Toastmaster® and Wells®. The company’s leading equipment brands serving the food processing industry include Alkar®, MP Equipment®, and RapidPak®. The Middleby Corporation was recognized by Business

Week as one of the Top 100 Hot Growth Companies of 2007, by Crain's Chicago Business as one of the Fastest 50 Growth Companies in 2007, and by Forbes as one of the Best Small Companies in 2007.

For more information about The Middleby Corporation and the company brands, please visit [www.middleby.com](http://www.middleby.com).

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