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**Food Safety Critical for Next Generation Food Plants**

*-- "Anticipating the Next Generation" One of the Best Attended Yet  
in the Ongoing Food Plant of the Future Webinar Series from Hixson--*

(CINCINNATI; September 30, 2011) – Food safety will be the most critical factor for the future success of food and beverage companies, according to a data gathered during the most recent Food Plant of the Future webinar sponsored by Hixson Architecture & Engineering and bnp publications. In the webinar, “Anticipating the Next Generation,” attendees voted 2-1 that food safety outweighed two other critical success factors (being a low-cost producer and plant/line flexibility) in determining how well food and beverage companies will perform in the coming decades.

Hixson’s Chris Jarc, P.E., LEED AP, who co-presented the webinar with Hixson’s Scott McGlamery, P.E., said this finding is supported by the efforts that food and beverage plants are making in their plants to improve food safety, but all three critical success factors must be in place for future success. “To achieve their goals, Food Plants of the Future will want their facilities to maximize line efficiency and equipment utilization, while reducing downtime, energy use and waste, achieving maximum flexibility and providing a safe product handling to the consumer,” said Jarc.

In addition, explained Jarc and McGlamery, to deliver on these three Critical Success Factors to their highest levels, the Next Generation Food Plant must align technology, people and the facility to create “the intelligent plant.” An intelligent plant features assets such as advanced technology, higher-skilled employees and a facility which are all in alignment with one another. “The intelligent plant will strike a balance between

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technology, people and the facility,” said McGlamery. “As technology advances, the people must be able to keep up with it and apply it correctly. The facility must be designed to adapt and grow as technology improves, and the people have to apply what they learn to keep the facility up to date.

Those who missed the live “Anticipating the Next Generation” webinar are able to view the archive of it, as well as archives of previous Hixson webinars at the [www.foodplantofthefuture.com](http://www.foodplantofthefuture.com).

### **ABOUT HIXSON**

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