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**For Immediate Release**

**MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. PROMOTES EILEEN MCGUIRE TO  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Melville, NY, October 24, 2011 - MSC INDUSTRIAL DIRECT CO., INC. (NYSE: MSM),** “MSC”, one of the premier distributors of Metalworking and Maintenance, Repair and Operations (“MRO”) supplies to industrial customers throughout the United States, announced today that Eileen McGuire has been promoted to Executive Vice President of Human Resources.

In her new role, Ms. McGuire, age 46, will continue to lead the Company’s Human Resources Team, including Associate Training and Development and Community Relations. In addition, she will now have responsibilities for the Company’s Continual Improvement Program, which is focused on developing an increasingly efficient and productive organization. Ms. McGuire will report to Erik Gershwind, MSC's President and Chief Operating Officer.

In 1996, Ms. McGuire became Director of Human Resources, and was subsequently promoted to Vice President and Senior Vice President in 1999 and 2005, respectively. She developed MSC’s human resources function as the Company grew from approximately 1,400 associates in 1996 to over 4,600 today. She led the effort to create MSC’s award-winning Community Relations Program and the development of the Company’s organization-wide management succession planning strategy.

David Sandler, Chief Executive Officer, commented, “Eileen has had an extraordinary career with MSC that has spanned over 28 years. During that time, she has contributed to functions far beyond her human resources role. Over the past ten years, she has led our Human Resources Team and served as a member of our Strategic Team. She has been instrumental in steering the Company’s direction and fueling our growth. Through her leadership, she has built a world class team, delivering excellence in all aspects of employment and recruitment capabilities, in addition to extensive training programs and a detailed management succession process. We look forward to benefiting from her continuing contributions in her new role.”

Ms. McGuire joined MSC in 1983. Prior to working in human resources, she held a number of cross-functional roles throughout the Company, including Distribution, Operational Accounting, Inside Sales, Field and Branch Operations, Call Center Management and Corporate Training, all with an increasing amount of responsibility.

**About MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc.**

MSC Industrial Direct Co., Inc. is one of the largest direct marketers and premier distributors of Metalworking and Maintenance, Repair and Operations (“MRO”) supplies to industrial customers throughout the United States. MSC is recognized for its outstanding customer service with over 1,000

sales specialists, approximately 600,000 industrial products, 3,000 suppliers, and 99% in-stock availability. For more information, visit MSC's website at <http://www.mscdirect.com>.

**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995.**

Statements in this Press Release may constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Any statements contained herein which are not statements of historical facts and that address activities, events or developments that MSC, or "the Company", expects, believes or anticipates will or may occur in the future, including statements about the expected benefits of the acquisition shall be deemed to be forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, many of which cannot be predicted with accuracy and some of which might not even be anticipated. Future events, actual results and performance, financial and otherwise, could differ materially from those set forth in or contemplated by the forward-looking statements herein. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. The inclusion of any statement in this release does not constitute an admission by MSC or any other person that the events or circumstances described in such statement are material. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements include, without limitation, problems with successfully integrating acquired operations, current economic, political and social conditions, changing customer and product mixes, financial restrictions on outstanding borrowings, industry consolidation, competition, general economic conditions in the markets in which the Company operates, volatility in commodity and energy prices, credit risk of our customers, risk of cancellation or rescheduling of orders, work stoppages or other business interruptions (including those due to extreme weather conditions) at transportation centers or shipping ports, the risk of war, terrorism and similar hostilities, dependence on the Company's information systems and on key personnel, and the outcome of potential government or regulatory proceedings or future litigation relating to pending or future claims, inquiries or audits. Additional information concerning these and other risks is described under "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in the Company's reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K that the Company files with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The forward-looking statements in this press release are based on current expectations and the Company assumes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements.

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