



Your Source for Monthly Manufacturing News

Questions, comments or feedback? Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts with us by emailing Info@NEPIRC.com.

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Manufacturing News from our Nation, State and Region

National News

U.S. Department of Commerce Requests Information on Supporting a Strong American Semiconductor Industry

The U.S. Department of Commerce requests input to inform the planning and design of potential programs to incentivize investment in semiconductor manufacturing facilities and associated ecosystems; provide for shared infrastructure to accelerate semiconductor research, development and prototyping; and support research related to advanced packaging and advanced metrology to ensure a robust domestic semiconductor industry. [CLICK HERE](#) to share your thoughts.



Manufacturing USA Fostering Projects to Power the Clean Economy

Reducing energy consumption and using energy as efficiently as possible are crucial for U.S. manufacturers to not only reduce emissions and confront the climate crisis but to also create jobs for current and next generation workers and increase America's global competitiveness in the industrial sector.



[Manufacturing USA](#) is a network of 16 institutes and their sponsoring federal agencies — the Departments of Commerce, Defense and Energy — that was created to secure U.S.

global leadership in advanced manufacturing through large-scale public-private collaboration on technology, supply chain and education and workforce development.

The network is responding to the need for increased energy efficiency and reductions in carbon emissions by fostering projects that will lead to major reductions in manufacturing energy use and costs, and provide the basis for innovative new green products.

Given that future energy consumption is likely to increase, cost-effective power conversion in industrial applications will prove vital to save energy and lower expenses for industry, reduce emissions, industrial waste, materials and water usage, and improve the life cycle energy efficiency of manufactured goods. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the ways in which Manufacturing USA and its affiliates are addressing energy consumption and efficiency.

State Update

Manufacturing Roundtable Informs Legislators of Program, Policy Priorities

On Tuesday, February 1st, Eric Esoda, NEPIRC's president & CEO, hosted a manufacturing roundtable for a joint meeting of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee and the Pennsylvania House Manufacturing Caucus in State College. The roundtable was requested by [Rep. Ryan Bizzarro](#), chair of the House Democratic Policy Committee, and [Rep. Mike Schlossberg](#), chair of the House Manufacturing Caucus.



The roundtable consisted of 10 manufacturing executives from across Pennsylvania, including leaders within [Metal Integrity East & West](#), [Restek Corp.](#), [Diamondback Covers](#), [Lake Erie Rubber & Manufacturing](#), [GeorgeKo Industries](#), [ILSCO Extrusion](#), [The Fredericks Co.](#), [C.L. Sturkey, Inc.](#) and [Lehigh Valley Plastics](#).

Within the 90-minute roundtable, which consisted of live participation and virtual attendees, manufacturers expressed their greatest challenges, barriers, opportunities and advantages relative to workforce attraction and retention, the adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies and the mitigation of supply chain risks through re-shoring and creating PA-based supplier networks. The participating manufacturers also offered suggestions and ideas as to what programs, policies and statewide initiatives should be created or expanded in order to accelerate their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and maximize their long-term growth and competitiveness. [CLICK HERE](#) to continue reading.

Questions regarding the roundtable? Please email Eric Esoda at Eric@NEPIRC.com.

Governor Wolf Releases FY 2022-2023 Budget

Earlier this month, Gov. Wolf released his budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. In it, Gov. Wolf included a \$1.5 million plus-up for the IRC Network through Manufacturing PA! NEPIRC is very thankful for this increase and appreciates Gov. Wolf including it in his budget. [CLICK HERE](#) to review Gov. Wolf's



Regional News

Northeastern PA is Leading Job Growth in the State

Earlier this month, [Senator John Yudichak](#) penned an op-ed regarding the great work [Pennsylvania's Governor's Action Team \(GAT\)](#) at the [Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development \(DCED\)](#) is doing to promote job growth in Pennsylvania and most notably, northeastern Pennsylvania!



NEPIRC was proud to see that of all the company attraction and expansion deals that GAT facilitated during the past year, those involving manufacturing firms generated the most new jobs, new payrolls and retained jobs for Pennsylvanians. Across northeastern PA, GAT-assisted manufacturing firms, such as [Ball Corporation](#), [CANPACK](#) and [Wren Kitchens](#), accounted for more than 56% of new jobs created, which is more than any other region in the state! It is easy to see that manufacturing is "alive and well" in Pennsylvania and northeastern PA and continues to thrive as we navigate the pandemic. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the complete op-ed.

SCHOTT Plans Expansion of its Duryea Plant

Congratulations to [SCHOTT](#) on growing its U.S. sales by 11.1% in 2021 to more than \$530.6 million! SCHOTT also increased its number of employees in the U.S. by nearly 100 and increased investments by almost \$3 million.

As a result of this success, SCHOTT Duryea, which is its Advanced Optics facility, will receive an improved layout design to increase efficiency.



NEPIRC is grateful for SCHOTT's continued investment in modernization, workforce skills and new technology within their Duryea plant. We would also like to thank Rob Gomeau and the team at SCHOTT for remaining steadfast in their commitment to our manufacturing community!

71 Jobs Coming to Monroe County With Relocation of Black

Buffalo 3D Manufacturing Operation to Pennsylvania

Recently, Governor Wolf announced that [Black Buffalo 3D Corporation](#), a manufacturer of large-scale 3D construction printers, is relocating its manufacturing operation from New Jersey to Pennsylvania and creating 71 new jobs in Monroe County.

Black Buffalo 3D purchased approximately 106 acres in Smithfield Township, Monroe County, and will construct a 150,000-square-foot facility to manufacture 3D construction printers and a 3D printing training facility. The project includes acquisition of land, construction of a building, infrastructure costs, acquisition of equipment and employee training. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article.



If your company has great news you'd like us to share with our manufacturing community, please contact Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.

NEPIRC News

Brian Matyjevich, NEPIRC's Lean Enterprise Consultant, Now an Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer for General Industry

NEPIRC is pleased to announce that Brian Matyjevich, Lean Enterprise Consultant, is now an authorized [OSHA](#) Outreach Trainer for general industry. Brian spent countless hours preparing for the exam, and we couldn't be prouder of his achievement.

This also means that NEPIRC is now offering OSHA 10- or 30-hour training courses in general industry standards. These courses were created by OSHA and will be instructed by Brian either at NEPIRC or onsite, depending on client preference. A public OSHA 10-hour course is scheduled for June 7th and 8th at NEPIRC. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more or to register.

If you're interested in learning more about NEPIRC's OSHA 10- or 30-hour training courses, please email Brian at Brian@NEPIRC.com.



Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting on Workplace Safety Slated for April 20th

Join Brian Matyjevich, NEPIRC's Lean Enterprise Consultant and Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer, and Jeffrey Ritter, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist, as they host a complimentary coaching session on workplace safety on Wednesday, April 20th from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the John P. Cosgrove Center at the [Pittston Memorial Library](#).

Hosted in conjunction with the [Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce \(GPCC\)](#), this meeting will cover the following topics:

- Potential safety pitfalls to avoid
- Hazards associated with the manufacturing industry
- Upcoming OSHA regulations

A Q&A session will also be held at the conclusion of the presentations.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information or to sign up! Please reserve your complimentary ticket by April 13th.



Virtual 8-Week Leadership Development Program Added to NEPIRC's Spring Training Calendar

NEPIRC is pleased to announce that due to high client demand, we will offer another 8-Week Leadership Development program led by Leo Gilroy this spring! It will be held on Wednesdays, starting April 13th, from 8:00 to 11 a.m. via MS Teams. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information or to register.



Workforce Panel Sponsored by the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce Added to NEPIRC's MFG DAY Agenda

NEPIRC is excited to announce that [Skills in Scranton](#), the workforce arm of the [Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce](#), will host a workforce panel discussion at MFG DAY on Friday, May 6th! Moderated by Amy Luyster, Vice President of the Greater Scranton Chamber, the panel will feature three HR representatives from local manufacturing companies and Julian Beck from NEPA SHRM. The panelists will discuss current workforce trends, innovative approaches to hiring and retention, DEI in the workplace and ideas on how to attract Gen Z'ers and Millennials. More details will be available in next month's *NEPIRC News* e-newsletter, but in the meantime, you can [CLICK HERE](#) to view additional information on MFG DAY or to register.



Questions? Contact Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club Off to Successful Start

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is off to a very successful start, and we couldn't be happier! Our first meeting was lively with lots of conversation, and the chatter hasn't quieted down. Our members are enjoying

staying in touch between meetings and are excited about the completion of the first book, "I Love It Here" by Clint Pulver. Next, NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will take on "[You've Got 8 Seconds – Communication Secrets for a Distracted World](#)" by Paul Hellman!

The mission of NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is to establish a monthly get together for manufacturing leaders to discuss topics for accelerating professional development in a relaxed, inviting environment. There is no cost to participate.

If you'd like to join, we'd love to have you! You can [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up now.

Questions? Please email Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.



New Business Opportunities: Companies Looking for Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region:

- **Fiberglass Composite** – Oklahoma-based manufacturer seeking provider of fiberglass shafts to form core of horse and cattle whips. Shaft would be in lengths from 15" to 88" with an upper OD of 0.308" and lower (tip) OD of 0.095". Should be packable in boxes of 300-400 units. Purchase of 250,000/yr. is expected.
- **Plastic Sound Tubes (Toy)** – Toy company seeking domestic production partner for seamless plastic tubes (similar to PVC pipe) tuned to notes on a musical scale. Buyer will provide specifications of the tubes, which range from 12" to 24", such that they will yield the desired tones. However, precision is important in the manufacturing process. Tubes will be sold in kits of 8 with various colors to align with the pantones used in music classes. Items must pass ASTM F963-17 and CPSIA toy and child product safety standards and have no sharp edges. Company is currently purchasing in excess of 10,000 8-tube sets/yr. and desires a cost in the neighborhood of \$5 per set. Shipping to Iowa.
- **Fabric Adhesive** – Company with facilities nationwide and overseas hopes to connect with a domestic manufacturer of double-sided adhesive transfer tape to adhere to fabrics, cotton and blends. Adhesive should be similar in stickiness to the common size sticker on apparel and should not leave residue once removed. About 1-inch wide and manufactured to various lengths or on a roll. Company is currently purchasing from overseas supplier. Buyer is eager to engage in price and delivery discussions and hopes to reshore this item within 30 days.

Companies interested in these supplier opportunities are encouraged to contact Dale Parmenteri, NEPIRC's Vice President of Consulting Operations, at Dale@NEPIRC.com. Please use "Supplier Opportunity" as the subject line for an immediate response!

Use these quick links to learn more about NEPIRC:

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