

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

Your Source for Monthly Manufacturing News

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Manufacturing News From Our Nation, State and Region

National News

MEP National Network Releases its 2023-2027 Strategic Plan

The new MEP National Network 2023-2027 Strategic Plan provides strategic direction for the MEP National Network and highlights strategic goals. As in the last strategic plan, the central tenets of the new plan continue to be: Empower Manufacturers, Champion Manufacturing, Leverage Partnerships and Transform the Network. The 2023-2027 strategic plan focuses on new program themes of supply chain, workforce and technology and innovation. The primary goals of the 2023-2027 strategic plan are:

- **Narrow the workforce gap:** Enable small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) to navigate the current workforce shortage while improving productivity and profitability, build a pipeline of future employees for the manufacturing sector
- **Mitigate supply chain vulnerabilities:** Increase supply chain visibility, assess supply chain risk
- **Leverage technology:** Increase technology adoption, ensure holistic, comprehensive application and use of technology, strengthen cybersecurity capabilities, partner with federal labs to accelerate the use of new technologies



The 2023-2027 strategic plan will guide the MEP National Network toward these goals through strategies to embrace future growth, broaden and deepen expertise, strengthen relationships and influence with state authorities and agencies, expand collaboration with other Centers and participation in the MEP National Network, and develop and exercise convening power to build strategic partnerships in each state and regionally.

This new strategic plan will provide strategic direction for MEP National Network members

and partners, but the implementation of those strategies will reside with each of the individuals who make up the Network, enabling and empowering them to craft the most effective means of execution for their contexts.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the complete Strategic Plan.

NIST's Job Quality Toolkit Helps Organizations Improve the Quality of Jobs They Offer

The challenge of attracting and retaining a diverse, productive, engaged workforce has grown. Workers seek quality jobs, and companies that prioritize job quality become employers of choice. Job quality is not just about the job; it is a combination of key drivers that are important to each worker's overall employment experience. Pay and benefits matter, and so do many other factors like workplace safety and health, a voice, scheduling predictability, skills building and advancement. Together, these distinguish an employer of choice from the rest.



Job Quality Toolkit

Strategies and actions to help small-to-medium sized organizations recruit and retain a high-performing workforce



The [Job Quality Toolkit](#) is an actionable tool that organizations can use to improve the quality of the jobs they offer. It is rooted in the [Baldrige Excellence Framework](#) and provides practical guidance to employers of all kinds. Many interrelated factors impact job quality. The Toolkit is organized around eight drivers.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download the Toolkit and learn more.

State News

PennTAP to Host Industry Roundtables on Pollution Prevention (P2) Tools

This spring, the Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) will host two industry roundtables on Pollution Prevention (P2) tools and training needs that are unique to metals manufacturing and food and beverage manufacturing.



PennTAP

Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program

- **Metals Manufacturing and Fabrication Roundtable:** May 10th from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Penn State New Kensington (The Corner LaunchBox: 701 Fifth Avenue, New Kensington, PA)
- **Food and Beverage Manufacturing Roundtable:** May 24th from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Penn State Berks (Gaige Building: 2080 Tulpehocken Rd., Reading, PA)

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Regional News

Saint-Gobain Named Global Top Employer for Eighth Year in a Row

Congratulations to [Saint-Gobain](#) on being named a Global Top Employer for 2023 by [Top Employers Institute](#)! Only 15 companies around the world received this prestigious honor this year, and this is actually Saint-Gobain's eighth consecutive year receiving this award.



Saint-Gobain is a international company that designs, manufactures and distributes materials and services for the construction and industrial markets. The manufacturer has a location in Olyphant, PA.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more about Saint-Gobain's recognition as a Global Top Employer.

Scranton Army Ammunition Plant to Receive Extensive Upgrade

The U.S. Army will spend \$243 million over the next several years to upgrade the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, creating more than two dozen jobs, officials recently announced.

The money, part of a \$17.6 billion investment to upgrade the 23 Army-owned plants, will help ramp up production lines and enable new equipment to be installed that will allow the plant to be able to produce more shells at a higher rate. The investment will also include a new building, a modern crane for moving materials and replacing manufacturing equipment dating back to the 1950s and 1960s.



The plant on South Washington Avenue in Scranton manufactures 155mm artillery shells used in training and wartime. The local plant is one of the Army-owned locations producing shells the U.S. supplies to Ukraine for its war against Russia's invasion.

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

NEPIRC's Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team Successfully Drafted!

NEPIRC's Dream Team Project Coordinator, Jenelle Osborne, has been working hard the past several weeks to recruit ambassadors for NEPIRC's newly-launched Manufacturing Dream Team. Her hard work paid off because over 30 ambassadors have been drafted from manufacturing companies throughout northeastern, northern and central PA!

The primary goals of NEPIRC's Dream Team are to spread awareness of manufacturing careers that are available in our region, the benefits of working in manufacturing and to let high school and community college students know about the many opportunities manufacturing careers provide. Together, NEPIRC and the Dream Team ambassadors will make a difference in our



NEPIRC
DREAM TEAM

communities by enhancing the image of manufacturing.

If you'd like to learn more about NEPIRC's Dream Team, please email Jenelle Osborne at Jenelle@NEPIRC.com.

Significant Impact Highlighted in NEPIRC's 2022 Infographic

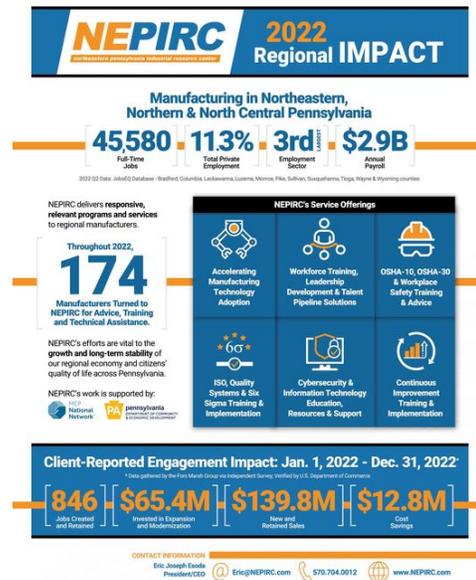
NEPIRC is pleased to release its 2022 regional impact infographic. This visual highlights the data gathered by the independent market research and analysis firm, Fors Marsh, and the U.S. Department of Commerce during the past calendar year. The data clearly confirms that NEPIRC engagements had dramatic impact across our manufacturing community throughout 2022!

For instance, NEPIRC helped its manufacturers achieve:

- 846 jobs created and retained
- \$65.4 million invested in expansion and modernization
- \$139.8 million in new and retained sales
- \$12.8 million in cost savings

2022 was a very good year for the manufacturers we proudly serve!

[CLICK HERE](#) for a closer look at the infographic.



NEPIRC to Host Two Cybersecurity Workshops

On Friday, March 3rd and Friday, March 24th, NEPIRC will host two Cybersecurity workshops to help manufacturers become more informed of cybersecurity best practices. Each workshop will be instructed by Marc Gonzalez from [Site2](#), a Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP) located in Clarks Summit, PA.



The Cybersecurity 101 Workshop on March 3rd will cover topics like threats and vulnerabilities in the Defense Industrial Base (DIB), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation (DFARS) 252.204-7012 and how it was created to help ensure security of the DIB, Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC), Interim Rule, DFARS 252.204-7019, 7020, 7021, creation of CMMC v. 2.0 and how NEPIRC and Site2 can help manufactures with DFARS and Interim Rule.

The Cybersecurity 102 Workshop on March 24th will take a closer look at CMMC v. 2.0, and explain how NEPIRC and Site2 can help manufacturers with their cybersecurity needs, along with detailing Site2's areas of specialization.

Each workshop will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in NEPIRC's Multimedia Studio, located at NEPIRC's main office in Hanover Twp. A virtual option via Zoom will also be available.

These workshops are especially for DoD suppliers or any manufacturer doing

business with the DoD or a DoD prime or downstream supplier.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Cybersecurity 101, and [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Cybersecurity 102.

Welcome to NEPIRC's Manufacturing Showcase, Koehler-Bright Star!

NEPIRC is pleased to welcome [Koehler Bright-Star](#) to its Manufacturing Showcase! Located in Hanover Twp., Koehler-Bright Star is a global leader in innovative safety products that brighten the darkness.



Bright Star was founded in 1909 as a battery manufacturer. In the 1930s, Bright Star developed and produced the first plastic safety certified flashlight for use in hazardous locations. Over the past century, the technology has changed significantly but the extreme conditions in which its products operate have not.

Founded in 1912, Koehler manufactured the first naphtha-burning safety light ever approved by the U.S. Bureau of Mines for explosive coal mining atmospheres. In 1918, Koehler developed the first electric, rechargeable cap lamp. Koehler went on to develop the world's first Lithium Ion powered cap lamp that continued to provide the most reliable light in the marketplace.

Koehler-Bright Star's commitment to safety is as steadfast now as it was when Koehler and Bright Star both began. This continuing commitment is why the company has remained strong for 110 years, and why it remains a leader in portable lighting and power solutions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about Koehler-Bright Star and to view the manufacturer's wide variety of products.

NEPIRC Sponsors & Speaks at Hazleton Chamber of Commerce's January Women's Luncheon

Last month, NEPIRC sponsored the [Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce's](#) monthly women's luncheon at the Top of the 80s Restaurant. Not only was NEPIRC the event sponsor, but Leo Gilroy, NEPIRC's Director of Strategy & Innovation, was also the featured speaker. His presentation, *Leadership, Emotional Intelligence and Self-Awareness*, provided a high-level overview of the importance of being an emotionally self-aware leader. The topic was a hit, and several attendees stopped to talk with Leo at the end of the luncheon.



Prior to Leo's presentation, Marla Hager, NEPIRC's Director of Client Development, spoke

to the group about NEPIRC's mission and service offerings. She also introduced Leo and shared a little bit about his professional background. Many thanks to the Hazleton Chamber for this opportunity. It was a wonderful event, and NEPIRC was happy to be part of it.

Business Strategy & Growth Services Help Manufacturers Achieve Their Goals

NEPIRC stands at the ready to help manufacturers accomplish their desired business outcomes with our [Business Strategy & Growth services](#). Partnering with NEPIRC gives manufacturers access to expert business advisors with the manufacturing knowledge, experience and resources to achieve company success targets. Over 40% of NEPIRC's clients report sales growth within 12 months of working with our organization.



NEPIRC's Business Strategy and Growth services include:

- Lead Generation
- Sales Process Mapping
- Technology Scouting
- Strategic Planning – Balanced Scorecard
- Strategic Planning – Business Model Canvas
- Executive Network
- Strategic Planning Consulting

If you'd like to learn more about how one or a few of these offerings can support your manufacturing business, please email Marla Hager, NEPIRC's Director of Client Development, at Marla@NEPIRC.com.

Take Advantage of NEPIRC's Winter & Spring Training Opportunities

Have you started working toward the professional development goals you set for yourself at the start of the new year? If not, let NEPIRC help! Our winter and spring training programs cover a wide variety of topics like:

- Continuous Lean Improvement
- Applied Project Management
- Leadership Development
- ISO 9001:2015 Internal Auditor
- OSHA 10 and 30
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving.

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Upcoming Events!

[CLICK HERE](#) for dates, times, course descriptions and to register.

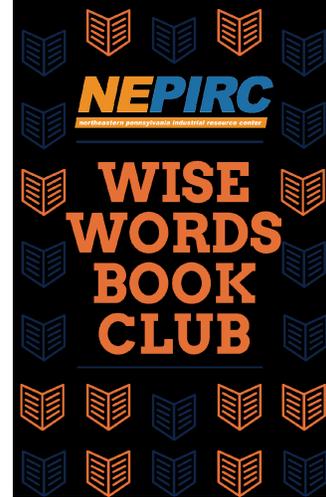
Connect With Other Manufacturing Leaders & Join NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club

Get on the bandwagon, and join the 11 other individuals who signed up for NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club in the past month! The Club meets virtually via MS Teams on the fourth

Thursday of the month from noon to 1:00 p.m. to discuss a best-selling leadership or professional development book.

To learn more, email Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com.

If you're an avid reader looking to connect with other manufacturing leaders, then NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club is for you!



New Business Opportunities: Companies Looking for Suppliers

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

- **Rectangular Hollow Extruded Copper (for Box Connector)** – Pennsylvania company seeking to reshore supply chain for copper extrusions for subsequent machining into box connectors for electrical switches. Outside rectangle .737 x .466/.455 with .015+/-0.010 corner radii. Symmetrical inside rectangle .462/.432 x .326/.323 with inside corner radii .010+/-0.005. Overall extrusion length is 10 feet. Wall dimensions .149/.145 (2x) and .070/.066 (2x). Material is 120 Copper Alloy. ¼ Hard. Hardness Rockwell B20-B54 but company may consider 110 Copper Alloy ½ or ¾ hard. Straightness is imperative – no bow or twist. Purchase volume will be 2,000 – 4,000 10-ft extrusions per year evenly throughout year. Current price is \$110 per 10-ft extrusion.
- **.2 Micron In-Line Water Filter** – Ohio company reshoring supplier of in-line water filters commonly installed on supply lines to sinks, showers, ice machines and fountains to mitigate risk of Legionella in healthcare, nursing homes and similar settings. Filtration to 0.2 microns allows water to be used for drinking, washing and cleaning of instruments. Process involves injection molding of filter housing with integrated plumbing fittings and inclusion of Polysulphone hollow fiber membrane with 0.2 micron maximum pore size. Overall size 2.5” diameter x 8.4” long, although shorter would be better. Other specifications (flow rate, connector size, service life, etc.) available upon request. Annual purchase estimated at 10,000 units.
- **Metal Coating Process for Carboxymethylcellulose Fiber** – Company in upstate NY seeking U.S. facility for metal coating for carboxymethylcellulose fiber. Treatment requires use of metal salts and mixed solvent of water and ethanol. Typical liquid ratio to control product swelling is 1:10 W/V such that up to 30L of ethanol is used in single 5 kg batch. Facility should have capability to produce 50-100 kg of metal-treated fiber and safely handle related waste streams on a regular basis. Buyer willing to collaborate with potential suppliers to discover more efficient or effective ways to produce desired results. Material supply needed (to begin) by June 2023.

Companies interested in these supplier opportunities are encouraged to contact Eric Esoda, NEPIRC's President & CEO, at Eric@NEPIRC.com.

NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board

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JOB BOARD **Local Manufacturing** **Job Listings** **Start your NEW Career** **in Manufacturing Today!**

Land Your Next Employee with NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board!

If your company is currently hiring, and you're not already utilizing NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board, then what are you waiting for? Email Chelsey Coslett, NEPIRC's Manager of Marketing & Stakeholder Engagement, at Chelsey@NEPIRC.com for more information. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the Manufacturing Jobs Board.

Use these quick links to learn more about NEPIRC:

[Upcoming training programs & events](#)

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