

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

Powerful AI Is Already Here: To Use It Responsibly, We Need to Mitigate Bias

Artificial intelligence (AI) is not just about chatbots anymore. Even if you've never used a tool like ChatGPT, AI is already affecting your life. AI may have been used in your doctor's office or bank without you even knowing. [The](#)

[National Institute of Standards and Technology \(NIST\)](#) is working to ensure that AI is trustworthy and responsible

NIST

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full article on the NIST blog.

State News

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro Releases 2023-2024 State Budget

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro revealed his 2023-2024 proposed budget for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on March 7th, 2023. Items of relevance to manufacturers consist of the formation of a Foundations in Industry initiative to stimulate the development of Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship programs throughout the state; an increase in Guaranteed Free Training (or [WEDNetPA](#)), which many



manufacturers access to upskill their workforce; and significant increases in funding programs to modernize CTC-based training programs and assist CTCs in obtaining the equipment needed to train our future manufacturing workforce in the latest advanced industrial technologies.

The Governor also proposed an increase to Pennsylvania's minimum wage, an accelerated reduction of the CNI tax and expedited permitting and business licensure policies. A full compilation of proposed budget documents can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Regional News

Action Lift, Inc. Awarded Prestigious Crown Pioneer Award for 2022

Crown Equipment Corporation, one of the world's largest material handling companies, recently announced the James F. Dicke Pioneer Award for 2022, along with the Summit and Ascent Award winners.



[Action Lift, Inc.](#) in Pittston, PA, earned the prestigious Pioneer Award as Crown's top-performing independent dealer in North America. This is the second year in a row that Action Lift has received this honor. In addition to the Pioneer Award, the company was awarded the Summit Award, which signifies the best overall Crown dealer within the same market size.

"We are thrilled to be named the Pioneer Award winner in addition to the Summit Award. I am very proud of the entire team at Action Lift. If it weren't for their hard work and dedication, we wouldn't have seen this level of success," said Joe Mikiewicz, General Manager of Action Lift, Inc.

William F. Medico, President of Action Lift, added, "We are proud to represent Crown Equipment in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Our outstanding team went above and beyond to reach our sales goals while delivering exceptional customer service in the process."

This recognition marks Action Lift's fourth Pioneer Award and its 23rd Summit Award for outstanding sales and customer satisfaction as a Crown Equipment dealer.

Cheetah Chassis Corporation Launches Sparky, its Autonomous Welding Robot

In February, Garry Hartman, President of [Cheetah Chassis Corporation](#), located in Berwick, announced that the manufacturer had welcomed Cheetah's newest "employee," Sparky, an autonomous welding robot made by [Path Robotics](#).

With the addition of Sparky, Cheetah and its employees will be able to expand production capacity and integrate more shifts and jobs. It's an exciting addition to Cheetah's rapidly growing team!



If your company has great news you'd like us to share with our manufacturing

NEPIRC News

NEPIRC Opens Effort, PA Office; Now Serves Manufacturers Through Four Regional Facilities

NEPIRC is pleased to announce the opening of its Monroe County office. With the addition of its presence within the Human Resources Center, Inc. building at 231 Service Road in Effort, PA, NEPIRC now serves manufacturers across its 11-county region with four facilities – Effort, Hazleton, Towanda and its flagship center in Hanover Township.



All NEPIRC offices feature a confidential setting for manufacturer consultations, state-of-the-art teleconferencing capabilities, and an adjacent training space for seminars, client training programs and open-enrollment workforce development programs hosted by NEPIRC or an affiliated provider.

“Our office in Monroe County represents our commitment to the manufacturers within that community, which provide reliable and steady employment to nearly 10% of the region’s workforce and pay out more than \$460 million in total wages annually,” said Eric Joseph Esoda, NEPIRC’s President & CEO.

NEPIRC will maintain a presence within the Effort, PA office on a regular basis and will support the office with no-cost and low-cost workshops and seminars for manufacturers. “We want our manufacturers to know we’re here and are accessible,” said Marla Hager, NEPIRC’s Director of Client Development. “Offering no-cost and low-cost networking events to discuss leadership, talent development, safety, continuous improvement and other timely topics is a great way for manufacturers to meet us while also gaining valuable knowledge and tips they can use right away,” she added.

Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team Initiative Featured on PA Live

Earlier this month, NEPIRC's Manufacturing Ambassador Dream Team was featured on WBRE's [PA Live](#) lifestyle show!

Chris Bohinski, show host, interviewed Jenelle Osborne, NEPIRC's Dream Team Project Coordinator, and Zach Aciukewicz, Operations Director USA, at [Bridon-Bekaert The Ropes Group](#) who is also one of NEPIRC's Dream Team Ambassadors. Chris, Jenelle and Zach talked about the Dream Team, its purpose and how supportive our regional manufacturers have been of this program.



It was great publicity, and NEPIRC is so thankful to the team at WBRE and *PA Live* for helping us promote this great initiative.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the clip and hear what Jenelle and Zach had to say!

Industry Certification Offerings Help Manufacturers Attract and Retain Customers

NEPIRC offers certification services and related training programs to ensure that manufacturers achieve and maintain the certifications needed to attract new customers and remain profitable and competitive. These services include International Standards Organization (ISO), risk management and supply chain strategies. Specific certification training programs include:

- ISO 9001
- ISO 14001 (Environmental Standard)
- AS9100 (Aerospace Standard)
- ISO 45001 (Safety Standard)
- ISO/AS Internal Auditor Training
- ISO/TS 16949
- Specialized Process Audits
- Risk Management & Supply Chain Strategies



To learn more about any of these programs, please email Marla Hager, Director of Client Development, at Marla@NEPIRC.com.

Take Advantage of NEPIRC's Spring Training Opportunities

NEPIRC would love to help you achieve your professional development goals, and our training programs might be just what you're looking for!

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the complete listing and descriptions of our upcoming spring training programs.

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Upcoming Events!

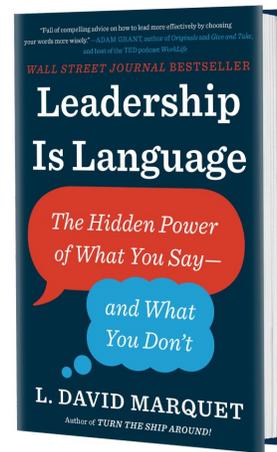
Leadership Is Language – the Next NEPIRC Wise Words Book Club Read

For the month of March, [NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club](#) is reading *Wall Street Journal* bestseller [Leadership Is Language](#) by David Marquet. As a leader in today's networked, information-dense business climate, you don't have full visibility into your organization or the ground reality of your operating environment. In order to harness the eyes, ears and minds of your people, you need to foster a climate of collaborative experimentation that encourages people to speak up when they notice problems and work together to identify and test solutions. Too many leaders fall in love with the sound of their own voice, and wind up dictating plans and

digging in their heels when problems begin to emerge. Even when you want to be a more collaborative leader, you can undermine your own efforts by defaulting to command-and-control language we've inherited from the industrial era.

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, March 23rd from noon to 1:00 p.m. via MS Teams. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up! Even if you don't have a chance to read the book, we'd love for you to join us.

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

- **Rotary Manifold Seals** – Iowa company seeking domestic suppliers of seals used in rotary manifolds. Buyer is seeking sizes in .5" increments from 1.5" diameter to 10" diameter. Looking for circuit seals made of oil-embedded nylon (ny-oil or nylatron), PTFE blends (graphite, bronze, carbon fiber) and/or urethane and lathe cut and other products. Drawings will be provided for a number of seal products. **If your company has experience in lathe cut seals and rotary applications, please contact NEPIRC for more information.** Buyer is domestically sourcing more than 100 parts with annual consumption of 200-2,500 units per part.
- **Ultra-Microbalance** – North Carolina company seeking supplier of an ultra-microbalance capable of providing gravimetric analysis of airborne particle matter filter samples that have been collected in an ambient environment. These are metal and electronic assemblies of approximate dimensions of 23/6" X 14.6" X 19.3". Desired per-unit cost is in the \$51,000 range. All technical specifications have been provided to NEPIRC for relay to interested suppliers.
- **Reflective Mylar Film** – Colorado buyer seeking reflective mylar film sheet 90" width (on roll). This film will be stretched over an aluminum frame to create a lightweight reflective mirror panel (80" X 80") for immersive video projection. Standard film manufacturing process to achieve 90% reflectivity. Thickness should be greater than 1mil to allow for stretching without breaking. Company is receptive to other reflective substrates. Purchase rate is currently 170 linear feet per month. Desired target price is \$1,000 per 100 linear feet.

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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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.

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