

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

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.

Visit our Website

Manufacturing News From Our Nation, State and Region

National News

NEPIRC Staff Attends the 2023 Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National Network Forum

In September, members of NEPIRC's staff attended the annual Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National Network Forum in Buffalo, NY, at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center. It was a fantastic four days of networking with teams from other industrial centers around the country and the MEP Network, learning from insightful keynote speakers and participating in numerous breakout sessions.



NEPIRC thanks the MEP Network for putting together this great forum and the educational opportunities and camaraderie it provided.

New MEPNN Workforce Article: Address Workforce Shortages From Every Angle

Manufacturers can increase their talent pipeline if they are willing to be creative and look at addressing workforce shortages from different perspectives. See what creative

approaches the Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (Montana MEP) clients are taking, as described in this *IndustryWeek* article.

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



State News

NEPIRC Releases Statewide Manufacturing Report

NEPIRC is pleased to release its [Pennsylvania Manufacturing Industry Report 2023](#) – an in-depth report on the impact of manufacturing across the Commonwealth. This report objectively presents the most important metrics, trends and measures relative to Pennsylvania’s manufacturing economy and uses unbiased data to compare the Commonwealth’s industrial economy to other sectors within the state and to those of peer group states across the nation.

Highlights within the report include:

- The near doubling of the Commonwealth’s manufacturing output over the past 15 years and rise of PA to be the 6th greatest industrial economy in the nation;
- The consistent growth of manufacturing jobs over the past half-decade, making PA the 6th largest state for manufacturing employment;
- The rise in total annual manufacturing wages across Pennsylvania to nearly \$41 billion last year – making it the Commonwealth’s 3rd-largest provider of wealth for Pennsylvanians; and
- The growth in Pennsylvania’s manufacturing exports, which now exceed \$43 billion annually, making us the 10th largest exporting state.

NEPIRC published the report as part of its ongoing efforts to support the manufacturing industry, raise awareness of manufacturing careers and keep the manufacturing support programs at the forefront of the minds of legislators and policy makers. “It’s sometimes easy to overlook a cornerstone of our economy that has upheld the Commonwealth for decades in favor of things that seem more trendy or glamorous on the surface but generate only a fraction of the benefits and impact,” said Eric Joseph Esoda, CPA, NEPIRC President & CEO. “Our intention with this report is to ensure that leaders across Pennsylvania recognize the criticality of our manufacturing industry and the value of the programs and entities that contribute to their enhanced competitiveness, resiliency and success in a global economy,” he added.

[CLICK HERE](#) to review this important publication. Hard copies are available by emailing Chelsey@NEPIRC.com. Please put "PA Industry Report" in the subject line to ensure a prompt response.



Pennsylvania Congressional Delegates Announce \$10 Million for Clean Energy Manufacturers

Earlier this month, U.S. Sens. Bob Casey (D-PA) and John Fetterman (D-PA) and U.S. Reps. Chris Deluzio (D-PA) and Summer Lee (D-PA) announced Pittsburgh-based [Catalyst Connection](#), part of PA MEP, would receive \$10 million to support clean energy manufacturing in the region.



Catalyst Connection will provide consulting and training services for small manufacturers in the clean energy and green technology sectors. Additionally, the organization will work with organizations in neighboring states to strengthen the clean energy sector. The funding will support the manufacture of renewable energy, hydrogen power, low-carbon and decarbonized power, smart grid improvements, electric vehicles and green buildings, officials said.

The funding, part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, was awarded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, and will be used to provide training and supply chain mapping, as well as guidance on factory upgraded to support renewable energy manufacturing, hydrogen power and other green energy alternatives.

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

Regional News

Gentex Receives Federal Funding to Modernize Carbondale Plant

[Gentex Corporation](#), which produces protective gear for the military, will use \$5 million in federal funding to continue updating its nearly 130-year-old facility.



Patrick Stallings, senior director of operations at Gentex Corp.'s headquarters in Carbondale, noted the money will allow the company to implement automation to improve its efficiency and increase capacity.

"We're changing, transforming and modernizing but this would take us 10 years," Stallings said. "Now, in one or two years, we're going to significantly modernize the plant which is really good news for the employees. We're going to raise their skills and hire more people. This is another major transformation for us because we're preparing for the next decades of helmets going out."

[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

NEPIRC's 2023 Manufacturing Day Best Practices Summit & Expo a Grand Celebration

NEPIRC's 2023 Manufacturing Best Practices Summit and Expo, the region's largest manufacturing trade show and

networking event, was held on October 13 at Mohegan Pennsylvania Convention Center in Wilkes-Barre Twp. The event provided an opportunity for manufacturers from an 11-county region to join together to learn, listen, share, collaborate and forge new partnerships with other manufacturers.

More than 100 manufacturers exhibited their products from robotics to safety apparel and equipment, to packaging, to printing and cybersecurity systems. This year's expo was the largest in the event's history, with nearly 600 registered attendees networking at the expo and attending the variety of educational breakout sessions held during the day. In addition, more than 70 high school students attended the expo to learn about careers in manufacturing.



Highlights of the expo included a keynote speech from Crayola COO Pete Ruggiero who shared his experiences leading Crayola through the last 26 years, including the supply chain challenges the company encountered during the Covid-19 pandemic. His keynote, Thriving Amidst Supply Chain Chaos, provided key insights to attendees on how Crayola diversified its business model through new product development, expanded further into international markets and integrated Lean and Six Sigma into their operating processes.

Representative Matt Cartwright and Representative Dan Meuser, who were originally scheduled to address the attendees in person, sent pre-recorded video messages to welcome attendees to the event.

One of the breakout sessions focused on the growing sector of women in manufacturing leadership roles. Dr. Christine Kiesinger, principal, CEK Communication Consultancy, served as moderator for the Women Leaders in Manufacturing panel discussion that included women leaders from manufacturers across the commonwealth, including Denise Truesdale, Pride Mobility Products Corp., Duryea; Pat Frances, Chaucer Press, Wilkes-Barre; Grace McGregor Kramer, McGregor Industries, Dunmore, Heidi McKenna, The Fredericks Company, Huntington Valley and Petra Mitchell, Catalyst Connection, Pittsburgh.

NEPIRC would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the 108 sponsors who made this day possible, the NEPIRC team for their unwavering support and dedication and all those who attended. Everyone's involvement made this event a resounding success. NEPIRC can't wait for next year's Manufacturing Day Best Practices Summit & Expo, which will once again take place at the convention center at Mohegan Pennsylvania on October 4, 2024!

Media coverage of the event included the following:

- [The Times Leader](#)
- [PA Live!](#)
- [FOX 56 News at 10](#)
- [Times Leader Column "Around Town"](#)

NEPIRC and the Greater Pittston Chamber to Co-Host Complimentary Workplace Safety Seminar

Join Brian Matyjevich, NEPIRC's Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer, and

Jeffrey Ritter, OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist, as they host this complimentary seminar on workplace safety. The event will take place on Wednesday, December 13 from 8:15 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 seminar will cover the following topics:

- Current workplace safety trends
- Risk assessment and avoidance
- Recent OSHA updates

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

Seating is limited, so please register by December 6 to secure your spot.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and register. NEPIRC is a proud member of the OSHA Alliance.

Take Advantage of NEPIRC's Upcoming Training Programs!

High-Impact Leadership, taught by Leo Gilroy, Director of Leadership and Organizational Development:

- Wednesdays, November 1 to December 13, 8:00 a.m. to noon, at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.



SolidWorks Essentials Training, taught by TriMech

- Monday, November 6 to Thursday, November 9, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Coffee & Coaching Breakfast Meeting: Workplace Safety, taught by Brian Matyjevich, Authorized OSHA Outreach Trainer:

- Wednesday, December 13, 8:15 to 10:30 a.m. at the Pittston Memorial Library

Applied Project Management, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Thursdays, January 11 to February 15, 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

8-Week Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Wednesdays, January 17 to March 6, 8:00 a.m. to noon at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

OSHA 10 Training for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Monday, January 22, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Wednesday, January 24, 8:00 a.m. to noon at NEPIRC Hazleton

OSHA 30 Training for General Industry, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesdays, January 30 to February 20, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

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

**New Business Opportunities: Companies
Looking for Suppliers**

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

- **Cold Forged Automotive Ball & Socket Parts (6)** – First-tier automotive supplier in Maine seeking cold forger to produce six different automotive ball and socket parts. The prior supplier is no longer available to produce these important parts. The new provider must be ISO 9001 certified. NEPIRC has all technical specifications and drawings for these parts, which range in order quantity from a lot of 34,900/month to high of 143,500/month. Most parts require cold forging, quench and temper with shot cleaning and 100% crack/flaw inspection by Magnetic Partial Inspection or similar. Most items have a Zinc Phosphate coating and some have a Rust Pretension treatment. Material grade is s46 (SAE 1049), S15 (SAE 1015), SB25 (SAE 15B25) or SCM40 (SAE 4140). Contact SupplierScouting@NEPIRC.com for more information.
- **Cut & Bent Aluminum Sheet Metal** – West Coast company looking for supplier to cut and bend aluminum sheet metal using laser cutter and CNC press brake. A provider who can also do laser tube cutting is preferred. Work will be done on 5052 and 6061 aluminum with tight tolerances. Some deburring and sanding may also be necessary on certain parts. More details available through SupplierScouting@NEPIRC.com.
- **Plastic Extruder for Fencing Components** – Start-up business seeking manufacturing partner to fabricate rectangular PVC extrusion pieces with tongue-and-groove profiles and internal ribs for reinforcement. Product will be used for fencing. The product will use plant-based plastics and have earth tone finish. Item will be sold as an accessory to the company's existing aluminum fence and post systems. Generally, pieces are 1.5" wide x 6" high x 94" long with a .5" tongue/groove on opposite sides. Items have a .125" edge radius, .080-.100 wall thickness and 4-5 internal ribs. Annual purchase expected to be 180,000 lbs. spread over 6 truckloads of approximately 30,000 lbs. each.

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

A graphic for NEPIRC's Manufacturing Jobs Board. At the top is the NEPIRC logo in blue and orange, with the tagline 'northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center' in a blue box. Below the logo, the text 'JOB BOARD' is written in large, bold, blue letters with an orange shadow. Underneath, 'Local Manufacturing Job Listings' is written in blue. At the bottom, 'Start your NEW Career in Manufacturing Today!' is written in blue and orange. The background of the graphic shows a hand holding a tablet displaying a dashboard with various charts and graphs.

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](#)

[Visit us on the web](#)

[E-mail us](#)



NEPIRC | 75 Young St., Hanover Township, PA 18706-1471

[Unsubscribe chelsey@nepirc.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by chelsey@nepirc.com