

NEPIRC NEWS

northeastern pennsylvania industrial resource center

November 2024 | Volume 49

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National News



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Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National Network

The MEP National Network is a unique public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive, proven solutions to U.S. manufacturers, fueling growth and advancing U.S. manufacturing.

[Learn more](#)

NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership Redesigns manufacturing.gov Website

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) recently announced that the enhanced [manufacturing.gov](https://www.manufacturing.gov) website is live!

Website visitors can now explore the newly redesigned manufacturing.gov website, a one-stop shop for federal manufacturing resources. Manufacturing.gov provides a central location for a comprehensive list of federal manufacturing programs, funding opportunities, announcements and more. The site makes it easier for manufacturers to access information about federal resources that will empower them to succeed. Additional enhancements are expected in future phases of the project.

[Explore manufacturing.gov](#)

Industry 4.0 and Cybersecurity – How to Protect Your Investment

Digital transformations are notoriously difficult for small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs). SMMs need to meet production goals, recruit and retain talent, and reduce risks in their supply chains all while trying to adapt to an evolving technological landscape. Fortunately, Industry 4.0 is gaining momentum to address these challenges by providing pathways to efficiencies, innovation and growth. As a result, more manufacturers are investing in automation and equipment monitoring.

Industry 4.0 may be a game changer for SMMs; however, it is not a panacea for all the challenges facing 21st century manufacturers. Like any new technology, Industry 4.0 introduces new vulnerabilities. Connectivity is great, but the cost of protecting critical systems and data cannot be an afterthought. Cybersecurity should be one of the first things to consider with any technology investment.

[Learn More](#)

State News

Hydro Extrusion Cuts Ribbon on Largest Extrusion Plant in the Western Hemisphere in Schuylkill County

State officials visited Schuylkill County to celebrate the opening of the largest extrusion plant in the Western Hemisphere. [Hydro Extrusions](#) invested \$50 million to renovate and expand the plant. The project will allow them to produce 50,000 tons more casted metal and reduce emissions by five percent. It'll also create 60 jobs and retain the more than 1,300 existing jobs at the plant.

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Rick Siger celebrated the Commonwealth's investments in the advanced manufacturing industry and helped cut the ribbon on Hydro's growing extrusion plant in Cressona, Schuylkill County.

"Congratulations to Hydro on their expansion in Pennsylvania! The company's investment shows its confidence in our strong workforce and business climate and is a great example of why we're focused on manufacturing as a key sector in the Commonwealth's Economic Development Strategy," said Secretary Siger. "Having a major manufacturer like Hydro continue to grow its roots in our Commonwealth sends a strong message to other businesses looking to expand or move to Pennsylvania that we are open for business."

Hydro Cressona is the largest aluminum extrusion site in North America, producing annually more than 250 million pounds of extrusions for the automotive, commercial transportation, distribution and infrastructure markets. Hydro also has another Pennsylvania plant located in Mountain Top.

[Read Article](#)

Governor Shapiro Announces Nearly \$600 Million in Grants for Over 400 Community and Economic Development Projects Across Pennsylvania

On November 1, Governor Josh Shapiro announced that his Administration is investing nearly \$600 million in over 400 projects across Pennsylvania through the Commonwealth's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). This significant investment reflects the Governor's commitment to supporting Pennsylvania communities and driving regional economic development through key cultural, civic, recreational and historical improvement projects.

[Learn More](#)

Regional News

Crystal Windows Expands Operations at Northeastern PA Facility

National manufacturer [Crystal Window & Door Systems](#) has expanded operations at its Northeast Pennsylvania facility outside of Scranton with the addition of several products to its lineup. The expansion allows the company to keep up with demand and keep lead times short. Crystal Windows' new construction Series 300 and Series 400 vinyl windows and the Series 1500 and Series 1600 vinyl sliding patio doors are all now fully assembled at the Scranton factory. These products join the Series 100 vinyl window line, popular with distributor stock programs, and the Series 1240 and 1280 aluminum patio doors already assembled there.

"Crystal Pennsylvania is continuing to grow despite the current industry challenges," said Steve Chen, president of Crystal Windows. "With our 336,000 square foot facility, we've capitalized on the space to add product lines and allow other Crystal plants to focus production on new heavy commercial products for regional markets."

Crystal Pennsylvania (Crystal PA) also has expanded its insulated glass unit (IGU) fabrication capabilities. The facility now can produce IGUs with several spacer systems, including GED Intercept and Edgetech SuperSpacer. Production of triple-pane IGUs has also ramped up significantly with increased market demand for greater energy efficiency. Crystal PA's automated glass line features highly efficient GED and Billco advanced production equipment which can handle large glass panels.

[Continue Reading](#)

Pennsylvania Ammo Plant Boosts Production of Key Artillery Shell in Ukraine's Fight Against Russia

A Pennsylvania ammunition plant that makes a key artillery shell in Ukraine's fight against Russia has managed to boost production by 50% to meet surging demand, with more capacity set to come on line.

Government officials revealed the increase in production as they showcased the historic factory's ongoing, \$400 million modernization.

The Scranton Army Ammunition Plant cuts and forges 2,000-pound (907-kilogram) bars of steel into 155 mm howitzer rounds that are then shipped to Iowa to be packed with explosives and fitted with fuses. From there, many of them make their way to the fight in Ukraine, where they are highly sought.

The Scranton plant, along with two other ammunition plants in nearby Wilkes-Barre, recently increased production from 24,000 rounds per month to 36,000 rounds per

month. Three new production lines are under development that will allow the Scranton facility to churn out even more of the critical munitions, the factory's top official said.

[Read More](#)

The Latest from NEPIRC



Photo Gallery from NEPIRC's 2024 Manufacturing Day Best Practices Summit & Expo is Now Live

We're excited to announce that the photo gallery from this year's Manufacturing Day Summit & Expo is now live and ready to view! No matter if you were or weren't in attendance, we encourage you to take a look at these images that so perfectly capture this overwhelmingly successful event and celebration of our region's vibrant manufacturing sector. [CLICK HERE](#) to check it out!



Begin or Expand Your Clean Energy Journey with NEPIRC

If you own or manage a manufacturing facility, do you wish to improve energy efficiency or reduce the plant's carbon footprint? Or are you interested in shifting or expanding your clean energy product lines? Through funding provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE grant program, NEPIRC can help manufacturers achieve these goals.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and start

Webinar: How to Become a Change Agent Within Your Organization to Drive Sustainability Initiatives



[Catalyst Connection](#), NEPIRC's Pittsburgh-based sister Center, is hosting a monthly Sustainability Change Champion Webinar Series kicking off on Friday, December 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The first of these four webinars will focus on how to become a change agent within an organization to drive sustainability initiatives. It will help prepare emerging leaders to manage strategic change both within their organizations and in response to disruptions. Participants will engage in a simulated scenario, taking on roles such as CEO or Director of Product Innovation to navigate challenges related to both internal and external change. The exercise emphasizes diagnosing challenges, planning adaptive actions and leading successful change efforts that align with evolving sustainability goals.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and register!



Manufacturer of the Month: Gentex Corporation

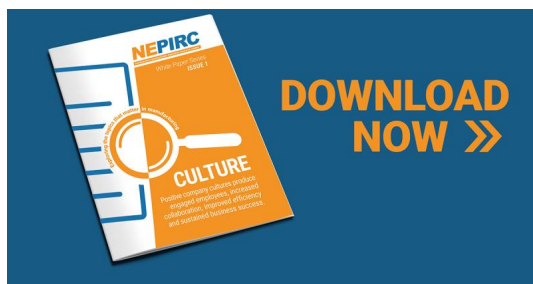
November's Manufacturer of the Month is [Gentex Corporation](#)! With a history of innovation

that spans 130 years, Gentex Corporation is a leading supplier of products that advance personal protection and situational awareness for global defense forces, emergency responders and industrial personnel operating in high-performance environments.

As we honor Veterans' Day this month, it's especially meaningful to recognize Gentex's commitment to the safety and well-being of our military personnel. Their portfolio includes helmet system platforms, hearing protection and communications products and capability upgrades for defense and security forces sold under the Gentex and Ops-Core brands, as well as PureFlo industrial respiratory protection systems. Privately held, Gentex is headquartered in Carbondale, PA, and supports its global customers through a worldwide distributor network and facilities in the U.S., the U.K. and Australia.

NEPIRC would like to thank all of America's servicemen and servicewomen for their dedication and sacrifices, along with extending our gratitude to Gentex for all they have contributed to our Armed Forces.

If you'd like to be featured as a Manufacturer of the Month, please email Chelsey@NEPIRC.com for more information.

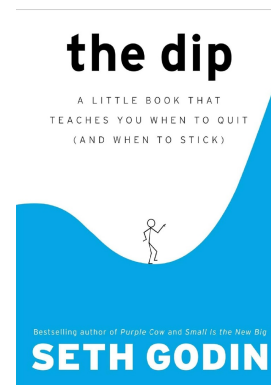


Workplace Culture White Paper: A Great Resource for Manufacturers

Don't forget, NEPIRC has several published resources for manufacturers, like the Workplace Culture white paper, available on our website [here](#).

This resource takes a look at workplace cultures and addresses the importance of creating a positive company culture that gets and keeps employees engaged, collaborative and motivated. It also provides helpful hints and pointers on how to move your company's culture forward. It's a great read that we think you'll enjoy.

Download White
Paper



The Dip by Seth Godin — November's Wise Words Book Club Read

Are winners really the best quitters? Find out by reading this month's Wise Words Book Club selection, [The Dip](#) by Seth Godin! At only 96 pages, there's no reason not to purchase the book and join our next meeting.

NEPIRC's Wise Words Book Club will meet on Thursday, November 21 from noon to 1 p.m. via MS Teams. Click the button below to learn more about this book and join the Club!

Join the Club!

Upcoming Training Programs

Six Sigma Yellow Belt, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Tuesday, November 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., virtually via MS Teams

Reasonable Suspicion Training, taught by Brian Matyjevich:

- Wednesday, December 4, 9 to 11 a.m., via MS Teams

Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Thursday, December 5, 9 to 11 a.m., at Timeless Destinations in Wellsboro

Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Tuesday, December 10, 9 to 11 a.m., at NEPIRC Towanda

Effectively Using the Power of AI in Manufacturing Webinar, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Thursday, December 12, 10 to 10:45 a.m., via MS Teams

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

- Tuesdays, January 7 to January 28, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Lean vs. Six Sigma Webinar, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Tuesday, January 14, 10 to 11 a.m., via MS Teams

Lean Specialist Certificate, taught by Mark Morgis:

- Mondays, January 27 to February 24, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at NEPIRC Hanover Twp.

Two-Hour Leadership Development Essentials, taught by Leo Gilroy:

- Wednesday, January 29, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The TekRidge Center, Jessup

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

- Thursdays, January 30 to March 20, 8:30 to 12:30 p.m., NEPIRC Towanda

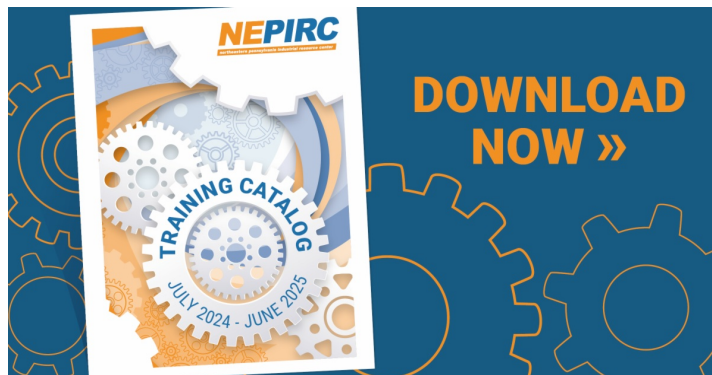
[Learn More & Register](#)

Browse NEPIRC's 2024/2025 Training Catalog

Don't see a training program that interests you in the above list? Browse NEPIRC's Training & Events Catalog to find the program(s) you're looking for.

- [CLICK HERE](#) to download NEPIRC's 2024/2025 Training Catalog
- [CLICK HERE](#) to download NEPIRC's 2024/2025 Training Calendar overview

Questions about a NEPIRC training program? Email Info@NEPIRC.com.



[Browse Training Catalog](#)

Companies in Need of Suppliers

NEPIRC is relaying these potential new business opportunities to manufacturers across our region. To learn more, email Randall Yash, Director of Technology, at Randy@NEPIRC.com.

- **Ball Y-Clevis** - Kansas manufacturer is seeking a domestic supplier of Ball Y-Clevis for use with ANSI class 52-3 & 52-5 insulators. These three components are created from hot dipped galvanized steel per ASTM A-153. Strength rating for the part must exceed 30,000lbs. This is a relatively large quantity one-time procurement for any machine shop or foundry with galvanized steel capabilities.
- **Radial Fans** - South Carolina manufacturer is seeking an immediate domestic supplier of radial fans to be used for residential and commercial appliances with 530 cfm. Fans will operate at 100-130cv and 200-240v 50hz-60hz. The manufacturer is seeking a sizeable annual contract for anyone with the capability to produce complete radial fans meeting specification.



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