

News Impacting the Manufacturing World in Washington State and Beyond.

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Monthly Newsletter

September 2018

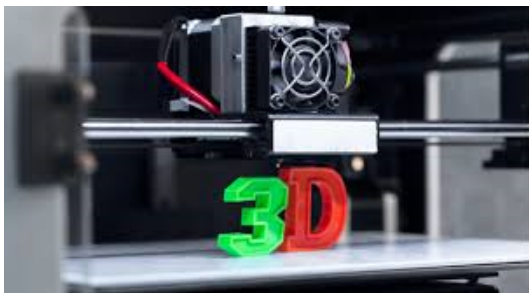
Manufacturing on the Move

By Loren Lyon, Center Director

Manufacturing is changing and evolving. With so many different things to consider, it is nice to know that you have resources to help you grow and change with it. Impact Washington offers many different consulting options. We can help with Lean implementation, cybersecurity, food safety, and more. Reach out to us for a consultation today!



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HP Revolutionizes



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Yesterday HP announced the launch of their metal 3D printer, the HP Metal Jet. This is a big step, because plastics can be used for production but are often, when 3D printed, best for prototyping. Metals, being generally more robust (and more common in manufacturing today), can be better used in production. [Read more here.](#)



Skills Gap Hampering Manufacturing Growth: Tooling U-SME Report

The manufacturing skills gap continues to hinder large portions of the industry and represents a significant impediment and threat to manufacturing growth and the adoption of new technologies, according to a new report, [Industry Pulse: 2018 Manufacturing Workforce Report](#), released on Sept. 11.

According to the report, the top business challenges for manufacturers are finding, upskilling, and onboarding talent -- even for most otherwise successful companies.

"Manufacturing is in the midst of a new industrial revolution that requires a workforce equipped with new, advanced technology skills," said Jeannine Kunz, vice president, Tooling U-SME. "Putting learning and

Floor

Although still relatively in its infancy, the Internet of Things (IoT) is having a dramatic impact on society as a whole for consumers and businesses alike. The manufacturing industry is no exception, where the increased connectivity is commonly known as Industry 4.0 or the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT).

The key driver behind the IoT is the results it creates. Consumer expectations are evolving with significant influence from millennials, and manufacturers must rapidly respond and become smarter in order to meet this evolving demand. As a result, new and existing facilities are being upgraded to be highly automated and ready for the IIoT. Given the growing demand from consumers for insight into the source of their products and the production process, the availability of data direct to the consumer is a trend that's only expected to grow. [Read more here.](#)



The Benefits of Digitizing Your Manufacturing Plant

The next-generation manufacturing plant will incorporate digital technology to maximize its efficiency and raise productivity. As more facilities adopt additional technology, customers will come to expect a given level of service. Stay competitive through digitizing your manufacturing

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succeed in today's ever-changing and increasingly competitive world.

"Leaders, including senior executives and management, must make their workforce a strategic priority if they want their companies to maximize growth," added Kunz. [Read more here.](#)



Featured Client Success Story

Company Profile

[Linear Technology Corporation](#) is a Vancouver, Washington company that designs, manufactures and markets a broad line of standard high-performance analog and mixed-signal integrated circuits (IC). They have 200 employees. Applications for the company's products include cellular telephones, networking products, notebook and desktop computers, video/multimedia, industrial instrumentation, automotive electronics, factory automation, process control, and military and space systems. Principle product categories include amplifiers, battery management, data converters, high frequency, interface, voltage regulators and voltage references.

Situation

Digitizing your plant can save you money beyond just increasing productivity. Digital technology allows you to track your energy usage in real time. With this information, you can see what equipment uses the most energy. This gives you the chance to make changes and save money on energy costs in your facility. The result boosts your profits.

Flex, a company that adopted digitalized processes, saved 30 percent on energy use. The company also predicted a savings of more than \$1 million per factory with continued use of the automation and digital information that comes with it. Saving this much often allows digitized facilities to pay for themselves through the ROI in a few years, depending on the amount invested. [Read more here.](#)



Beyond the Boomers

On shop floors across America, composites industry workers are aging. According to a 2015 report from IACMI – The Composites Institute, 22.9 percent of workers in the IACMI region (Michigan, Colorado, Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky) are over the age of 55 and set to retire in the next decade. And as they retire, they are leaving with years of experience and essential knowledge necessary to

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uncertain period as consolidation and shifts in IC production continued. As a result of this manufacturing ramp-up, the factory had capacity issues. These capacity issues, along with work-in-progress inventory (WIP) manufacturing practices, led to an unbalanced inventory flow within the factory—resulting in wafers accumulating in certain areas. This accumulation created unexpected demand for resources on the shop floor.

[Read more here.](#)

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[Lean Enterprise Certificate Program](#) – Bothell, WA – October 4th – December 11th

[Industry 4.0 in Southwest Washington](#) - Vancouver, WA - October 17th, 2018

[Enterprise Certificate Program](#) – Kalama, WA – October 29th, 2018 – February 25th, 2019

[Lean Enterprise Certificate Program](#) – Ridgefield, WA – October 30th, 2018 – February 26th, 2019

[PNVA Produce Safety Rule Grower Training](#) – Kennewick, WA – November 13th, 2018

“There’s a bit of fear there,” says Joannie Harmon Heath, workforce development manager at IACMI. “How are we going to keep what’s in Bob’s head here so that no one repeats mistakes or continues to do business as usual and there’s no downtime? Retaining tacit knowledge is a big concern ... because the number of available workers is a significant mismatch to those that are leaving.” [Read more here.](#)



Learn About Our Made in Washington Program

*Manufacturing is a vital arm of Washington's economy, and it's our mission to support and energize our local industry. The Made in Washington program is a free service to the community that certifies, promotes, and connects Washington State manufacturers. Check out our [directory of Made in Washington businesses](#), or get certified and listed today! The program is at **no cost** to join and includes such benefits as*

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