



Central MA Companies Receive Workforce Training Fund and Economic Development Program Grants



Where Innovation Takes Shape.

Interstate Specialty Products, Inc. has been awarded a Workforce Training Grant by Commonwealth Corporation in the amount of \$35,800 to train 23 employees in Value Stream Mapping and Kaizen, which will be useful for the company's growth and efficiency goals. The training will help employees to fully engage in their positions and comprehend what they do daily to become more efficient and create more products faster.



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Next Generation Manufacturer



A&M Tool and Die Company is a machine shop that provides precision parts with tight tolerances. They produce single parts from customer designs, build custom machines, and provide welding and fabrication services. Through their collaboration with the MassMEP, they will receive grant funds from the Commonwealth's Workforce Training Fund

Program for training in 5s and Value Stream Mapping through on-site workshops by Global Business Systems. This training will provide employees with the required certifications for ISO 13485:2003 Quality Management System, AS9100 Aerospace Quality, and ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems.



K&K Thermoforming received a second Workforce Training Fund Program Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. K&K Thermoforming, a family-owned, custom “thermoformed” company in Southbridge, was

recently awarded another grant for training funds in the amount of \$50,535 through the Workforce Training Fund Program. The funds will be used to train 25 employees in the latest ISO 9001-2015 concepts to keep the business competitive. K&K Thermoforming received their first grant in 2009. Since 1984, K&K Thermoforming has been designing and manufacturing 100% biodegradable protective packaging that is RoHS (Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive) compliant, and they recycle close to 100% of the raw material left behind by the manufacturing process. Due to the business working very closely for many years with the Workforce Central Career Center located in Southbridge, they have kept up-to-date with the current business services and programs offered and have been able to take advantage of the support provided by the Commonwealth to ensure their continued success.

IPG Continues To Grow With Commonwealth EDIP Support

Atom trapping, space communications, and atmospheric wind measurements are just three of the high tech projects that rely on IPG Photonics’ fiber laser technology. IPG, headquartered in Oxford, MA, was founded in 1990 to meet the emerging optics industry’s needs. In recent years, fiber laser technology has steadily supplanted traditional lasers, gas cutters and welding machines, handling a range of tasks in medicine, materials processing and space exploration. In order to keep pace with global demand, IPG Photonics has expanded its headquarters in Oxford, working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts twice through the Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) to build new manufacturing facilities and to create 475 new jobs. Today, IPG employs nearly 700 workers with facilities in Germany, Italy and Russia, and regional sales offices on three continents to go along with its local operations. With the continued support of business services in the Commonwealth, IPG Photonics is poised to grow even larger in the coming years.



If your business is interested in learning more about the services available at Workforce Central, please contact your local Business Service Representative.

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