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Team PA Launches ‘Factory of the Future’ Resource to Help Pennsylvania Manufacturers Accelerate Technology Adoption and Improve Competitiveness

HARRISBURG – July 24, 2024 – Team Pennsylvania Foundation, the non-profit committed to accelerating Pennsylvania’s long-term economic future, announced today the launch of the [‘Factory of the Future’](#) – a free online resource that empowers Pennsylvania manufacturers to learn more about the integration of advanced manufacturing technologies such as big data and analytics, cybersecurity and robotics. The resource also allows manufacturers to connect with local organizations who can support them through the process.

“Manufacturing is one of Pennsylvania’s core sectors, and it has been for more than 250 years,” said Abby Smith, President & CEO of Team PA. “Yet, manufacturing is changing rapidly, and many small- and mid-sized companies are struggling to keep pace and stay competitive. For the sector to grow and thrive in the Commonwealth for the next 250 years, we need to accelerate adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies. The ‘Factory of the Future’ resource is designed to help manufacturers quickly connect to supports for their next steps, whatever their starting place.”

Making up roughly 14 percent of Pennsylvania’s GDP, manufacturing is one of the commonwealth’s most valuable industry sectors. The state consistently ranks as one of the top ten U.S. states for manufacturing. However, more than 50 percent of Pennsylvania manufacturers report struggling with the complexity of integration as they work to adopt advanced manufacturing technologies. In addition, 12 to 15 percent of Pennsylvania manufacturers are not currently automating nor planning to, and 97 percent of manufacturers in the commonwealth have fewer than 250 employees.

The ‘Factory of the Future’ resource was created with Team PA’s [Manufacturing Competitiveness Collaborative](#), a network of more than 100 organizations working to accelerate the growth of Pennsylvania’s manufacturing sector. Participants include leaders from manufacturing companies, public agencies, organized labor, non-profits, and university partners.

“Integrating new technology can be daunting for manufacturers, and one of the hardest parts is finding time to research, plan, and sort through complex details, given everything else on leadership teams’ plates,” said Ronn Cort, President of Dunmore, a global manufacturer of coated and laminated films and foils with operations in Bristol, PA. “In the Manufacturing Competitiveness Collaborative, which includes manufacturers at various stages of advanced technology adoption, we asked ourselves, ‘what would help my own company move forward more quickly today?’ What do I wish I had known earlier in my process?’ The ‘Factory of the

Future' resource grew out of those conversations."

'Factory of the Future' – also known as Industry 4.0 – refers to a set of advanced technologies and processes occurring globally in manufacturing. Industry 4.0 focuses on integrating manufacturing operations and information technology (or digitization), to help companies track, adapt, and improve operations in real-time, and further automate recurring tasks, using sensors, data analytics, and robotics, to name a few.

The 'Factory of the Future' resource distills common steps companies take to integrate advanced manufacturing technologies and elevates local resources across Pennsylvania, company case studies, and industry tools related to each step.

"Every manufacturer's journey with advanced manufacturing technologies is unique, but there's no need to start from scratch. Our 13 years of experience at Ledge Inc. show that by following proven steps and leveraging resources like 'Factory of the Future,' companies can achieve significant gains in productivity, competitiveness, and quality," says Adam Marsh, President of Spring Grove, PA-based Ledge Inc., a manufacturing consulting firm dedicated to quality and production optimization.

Shannon Massey, Senior Vice President of Williamsport-based Lycoming Engines, the only US-owned and operated general aviation piston engine manufacturer, added, "In the Manufacturing Competitiveness Collaborative, we only succeed when our stakeholders succeed. This tool was designed by Pennsylvania manufacturers of various sizes, for manufacturers (including peers and suppliers). It is one step – of many – to help sustain and grow our manufacturing sector."

Over the next several months, Team PA will continue to add company success stories to the site and will identify areas where additional support is needed to accelerate technology adoption. "By lifting up the tremendous assets across Pennsylvania, and sharing companies' own experiences in an ongoing way, we hope to accelerate manufacturing technology adoption across the Commonwealth. The future of manufacturing in Pennsylvania depends on it." said Janine Spadafore Kaiser, manufacturing policy consultant for Team PA.

Learn more about 'Factory of the Future,' and connect with Team PA to share your own advanced manufacturing technology story, at pamanufacturingfuture.com.

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About Team Pennsylvania

Team Pennsylvania is a dynamic 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that accelerates the commonwealth's long-term economic competitiveness. As the state's trusted convener, we bring together business leaders and policymakers to capture the transformative economic opportunities that no one sector can tackle alone. Through collaboration and strategic investment of public and private funds, we maximize the impact for the commonwealth and create equity and economic opportunity for all Pennsylvanians.

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