FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Member's Social Corner - What's Happening?

We are sharing news and social media updates from our community members! Click on each picture to go to the main social media post. Give them a follow and a like!

Integra Technologies

The State of Kansas approved Integra Technologies' Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion application to expand in the Wichita area. This 1M square foot expansion will onshore semiconductor production and create 2000 new high tech jobs in Kansas.

Steel and Pipe Supply

Steel and Pipe Supply is going "green" by trialing orange EV yard trucks in their Tulsa, Longview, Kansas City, and Tulsa facilities this year. EV yard trucks in a warehouse setting provide an innovative way to handle materials going through the operations.

Peerless Products

Peerless Products partnered with Smart Lift Solutions to provide customers with a glass transport system to carefully install windows at job sites. The rental model allows clients to realize benefits, while eliminating the need to make significant investments in robotic lifting equipment.
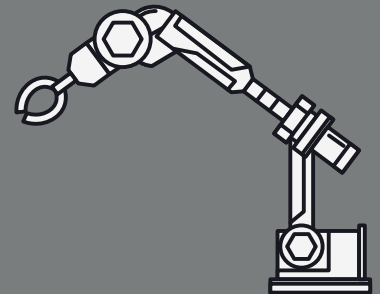
Skarda Equipment Company

The Skarda Sales Team joined Certified Power Solutions for their annual sales meeting. The team had opportunities to connect with colleagues, learn new strategies, and gain valuable insights for continuing to drive their business forward.

Have news to share? Want to grow your online/social media presence? Send your news to **info@greatplainstmc.org**, or tag us on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, or **LinkedIn** and we will share!

Did You Know...

...that the global cobot market is expected to balloon from $1.1 billion in 2022 to $9.2 billion by 2028? (ThomasNet)? Cobots and other robots are accurate in completing tasks, helpful in keeping workers safe, and flexible in accommodating changes in operational workflow.

Ready to explore robotic opportunities for your company? Not sure where to start? Reach out to us to get started at **info@greatplainstmc.org**!

Give Us A Follow!

GPTMC Partner Program Feature

Kansas SBDC Capital Access Center

This month's partner feature is the Kansas SBDC Capital Access Center (CAC). The CAC is a free consulting service to Kansas SBDC clients needing capital. It is managed by banking professionals with over 40 years of combined experience.

The CAC consulting services include:
- Loan Eligibility Screening
- Test Review & Lending Options
- Guidance through the Loan Process
- Training & Education

This service is available to Kansas SBDC clients at no cost. To learn more and sign up as a client, please visit **https://www.capitalaccesscenter.com/benefits**

Upcoming Partner Events

- **3/1: Unpaid Sources of Social Media**
- **3/9: US Commercial Service's Rural Export Center**

View and sign up for more events at https://greatplainstmc.org/events

Celebrate Kansas Ag Day in March

The Kansas Dept. of Agriculture (KDA) is **celebrating** Kansas Ag Month in March by recognizing the hard-working men and women in agriculture and raising awareness of the crops and animals raised on Kansas farms that feed families all over the world.

The ag equipment manufacturing sector of the industry plays a key role in this economic success. In fact, the sector contributes $4.2 billion to the state's economy and is the 36th largest sector in the state according to KDA's 2022 Ag Growth Summit sector document. 90% of Kansas' land mass is devoted to farming, which creates a large customer base for ag equipment manufacturers in the region.

Here are ways ag equipment manufacturers can celebrate Kansas Ag Month.

- Host tours for schools, community/state leaders, and local individuals to share best practices of your operations
- Share what agriculture means to you through social media
- Host a breakfast or cookout for local farmers
- Connect with local FFA chapters or welding/shop classes
- Work with local businesses to support and promote agriculture through signage, donations, and/or publications

The GPTMC enthusiastically continues to support ag equipment manufacturers with the KDA and looks forward to celebrating in March. To see information about previous ag equipment support and events, please visit **https://greatplainstmc.org/ag-equip-mfg**. Stay up to date on announcements and upcoming events by joining the GPTMC community at **https://greatplainstmc.org/join-the-gptmc-community**.
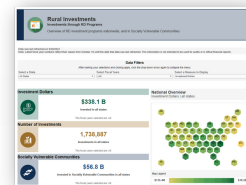
New USDA-RD Rural Data Gateway Resource

The USDA Rural Development program launched the Rural Data Gateway, a resource that makes it easier for partners and people living in rural communities to access the department's data for rural projects. This will not only help the USDA become a stronger partner, but also to better direct resources to the individuals who need them most in rural areas.

The rural investment dashboard in the Gateway features more than 20 data visualizations to spotlight investments made in the last 11 years through more than 65 programs. It is an easy-to-use tool that helps users analyze trends across topics such as:
- Programs Areas
- Socially Vulnerable Communities
- Geography by County
- Geography by Congressional District
- Data Download

For more information about the Gateway or to view the dashboards, please visit **https://www.rd.usda.gov/rural-data-gateway**.

GREATPLAINS
TECHNOLOGY & MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

Data Analytics Services Available to GPTMC Members and Partners

Is your company looking for data-driven answers? Ready to begin gathering data from your operations? The GPTMC wants to remind members and partners of the data services available to help companies and organizations with data acquisition, data management and analysis.

The GPTMC has access to industry data, programming and visualization tools, plus methods and processes for gathering and analyzing problem-specific data. Data services include:

- Data Acquisition
- Data Visualizations
- SQL Database Programming and Reports
- Linear Modeling of Technical/Marketing Data
- Data Organization and Management Support
- Mathematical Models of Physical Processes
- Programming: SQL, VB.NET, VBA, Power BI, Python, R, STATA
- Data Analysis to Answer Technical/Research Questions
- Mass and Energy Balances

For more information, please visit **https://greatplainstmc.org/data-analytics-program,** or contact us at **info@greatplainstmc.org** to get started.

What is IIoT? - Blog

"Industrial Internet of Things" (IIoT) is a term that is gaining more and more traction throughout the manufacturing industry. IIoT refers to the networking of devices via the internet, and through the internet to database and software systems. Machinery of different types of brands can be connected via a variety of networking methods and connectivity protocols - even across vast distances - and data from these devices can be used holistically or as subsets, in real time or historically.

Manufacturers should not limit themselves to using data they currently understand how to collect, but instead, let loose creativity to develop wish lists. Ask staff to dream of what types of data they would love to have, and how that data might be used to improve processes and productivity. Chances are, IIoT service providers can help your company collect data in a way that is less cumbersome and expensive than imagined.

Technologies continue to evolve in the IIoT space, and the GPTMC is committed to continuing to learn and network with experts, so that it can assist regional manufacturers in finding the resources they need to become successful in the age of digitized manufacturing. Read the rest of the blog **here** to learn more!

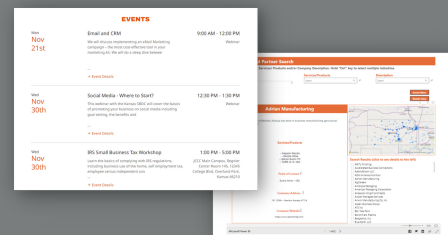## Mark Your Calendars for the Four State Farm Show

The GPTMC is teaming up with the K-State Technology Development Institute in a booth at the Four State Farm Show in Pittsburg, KS May 19-21st.

The show was created to bring agricultural production and agribusiness together. In 40 years, the show has become known as the premier agricultural event in the four state region (Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas).

Learn more at **https://fourstatefarmshow.com**. See you there!

Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome 4 new members that joined the GPTMC manufacturing community in January! If you're new here, check out the **events**, **programs**, and previous **newsletters**.

Want to view all of our new members? View the **community directory** to search for members by company name, point of contact, products/services, and location.

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration