



GREAT PLAINS

TECHNOLOGY & MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

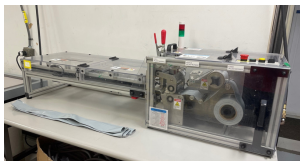
Member Spotlight

Heatron - Leavenworth, Kansas



Our member spotlight this month is Heatron, Inc. The company designs and manufactures custom heating elements, circuits, LED boards, and modules for OEMs in various industries including medical, aviation, LED lighting, industrial and commercial device components. Their operations are based out of two facilities in Leavenworth, Kansas, where the corporate headquarters is located, and one facility in Erie, Pennsylvania.

In 2016, the company was acquired by NIBE Element Group, a global organization that owns companies like Heatron to produce eco-friendly and energy-efficient solutions worldwide. This partnership has been fruitful for Heatron, allowing them to work on larger projects, operate autonomously, and be part of a network of companies that can work together. This opportunity gives Heatron the flexibility to be innovative and work with the OEMs at any stage of development while following an engagement framework to accommodate every project.



The company continually invests in new technologies to streamline operations, improve values, and deliver a competitive advantage to meet the needs of their OEMs. To accomplish this, Heatron has worked closely with the

K-State Technology Development Institute (TDI) for several years to develop custom, automated machines and testing operations. These processes ensure high-quality parts are being produced while saving time and eliminating waste.

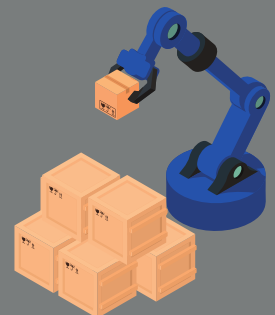
"TDI is a nimble resource for unique problem solving. Their input and assistance are both insightful and expedient. We are grateful for the partnership we've had with them throughout these years", says Craig Schmidling, Executive Vice President of Engineering and Quality.

Heatron has experienced steady growth and will soon be expanding into a new site as well as extending their reach into semiconductor manufacturing equipment, medical devices, and heating for battery and fuel cell system industries. For more information or to learn how you can work with the company, please visit www.heatron.com.



Did You Know...

...that 1 in 3 manufacturers report that insufficient resources and expertise could limit their investment in emerging technologies? ([Source: IndustryWeek](#)).



Our team's technical experience and deep network can help you navigate those fears. The time to automate and invest in emerging technologies is now! Have questions? Contact us at info@greatplainstmc.org.

Give Us A Follow!



Global Entrepreneurship Week in Northeast Kansas

Are you an entrepreneurially minded business owner or individual in Northeast Kansas? Join KCSOURCELINK and Go Topeka November 14th-20th for Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW). This is a celebration of makers, innovators, and job creators who launch startups and bring new ideas to life.

Both organizations have several educational sessions hosted by regional entrepreneurs and resources that are geared to help anyone who wants to start, grow, accelerate, or champion entrepreneurship and small business.

For more information please visit KCSOURCELINK-
<https://www.kcsourcelink.com/gew>
Go Topeka-
<https://www.gotopeka.com/global-entrepreneurship-week/>



Upcoming Partner Events

- 11/2: State Tax Webinar
- 11/10: Women in Manufacturing - Lenexa

View and sign up for more events at
<https://greatplainsstmc.org/events>

Statewide Virtual Job Fair Available for Kansas Employers



KANSASWORKS is hosting a free Statewide Virtual Job Fair November 16th-17th for employers and job seekers throughout the state. This is an opportunity for employers to fill empty positions and solve many of their workforce challenges.

The fair will be split up into five workforce areas of the state and eleven job sub-categories to make it easier for job seekers to navigate the platform. Job seekers will have the opportunity to live chat and interview with employers virtually as their schedule allows.

Employers interested in participating must complete the online registration form at <https://app.premiervirtual.com/events/bd6cbe13-d2cd-4161-a27d-4d52f2edf663/kansasworks-virtual-statewide-job-fair-november-16-17>.

While registering your open position(s), please remember to only select the areas and sub-categories that your company has jobs in. If there is a period of time that you are unable to be present at your virtual booth, the job seekers will still be able to submit their resume for you to review. Job seekers may register at the same link. For questions, please contact your [local KANSASWORKS office](#).

As mentioned above, this is a **free** event for job seekers and employers. Please use this opportunity to find qualified candidates for your open positions!

Nominations Open for Small Business Week Awards

Know a successful small business or manufacturer in your region? The Kansas City and Wichita SBA District Offices are ready to accept nominations for the 2023 Small Business Week Awards. These awards honor small businesses' achievements and contributions to their community and economy. There are a variety of awards to choose from, such as "Small Business Person of the Year", "Small Exporter of the Year", and more.



All nominations must be submitted to the SBA through an online link no later than December 8th, 2022 at 3pm ET. Each submission must have the award nomination form, nominee background form(s), and other required material depending on award. Please review the [nomination guidelines](#) before submitting to determine eligibility, the selection process, and more.

For more information and to nominate a business or yourself, please visit <https://www.sba.gov/national-small-business-week/awards>. Please reach out to your SBA District Office for questions.

Wichita - <https://www.sba.gov/district/wichita>
Kansas City - <https://www.sba.gov/district/kansas-city>

2022 Kansas Manufacturing Summit Recap



The GPTMC team attended and had a booth display with K-State TDI at the 2022 Kansas Manufacturing Summit (KMS) hosted by the Kansas Manufacturing Council and Kansas Chamber. KMS brings together manufacturers and leaders to discuss common issues and the future of manufacturing in the state. The event started with an evening reception the day before to celebrate the "Coolest Thing Made in Kansas" contest.

Each of the contestants had a booth as well to showcase their product that makes them cool! Congrats to Ernest-Spencer Companies (People's Choice Award) and Lee Aerospace (Coolest Innovation Award). This reception gave everyone an opportunity to network, make new connections, and learn about many manufacturing resources throughout the state.

The theme for the event this year was "Innovate. Compete. Grow.", which is exactly what the panel discussions covered. The panelists were leaders of Kansas manufacturing companies that shared their experience, challenges, and suggestions on topics such as Industry 4.0, Open-Book Management, Finance, Getting to the Market, and Innovation.



The GPTMC would like to welcome several of the new companies that joined our manufacturing community! We look forward to attending next year and networking with new and familiar connections again!

3D Printing from the Experts - Interview Style Blog



You've seen our previous blogs and all the hype about 3D printing...You've thought about how you can implement a 3D printer into your processes...You've heard how beneficial 3D printers can be. The big questions are...where do you start? How much will it cost? When do you need to use it?

If you're looking for advice, look no further. This blog features an interview with Quinton Berggren, a mechanical engineer at GPTMC's host, the K-State Technology Development Institute (TDI). Many of the unique and challenging projects that Quinton has with clients require prototypes that are developed by a 3D printer in TDI's new Additive Manufacturing Studio. He has the answers you need for 3D printing! Read the interview [here!](#)



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Technology Development Institute

Hays Microfactory Breaks Ground



Grow Hays kicked off the construction of the Hays Microfactory with a ground breaking event on October 13th. The event included presentations, networking, and the "first dig" from Grow Hays, state leaders, construction teams, and funding partners.

The GPTMC is excited to see this idea come to life and how it will support small manufacturers in the northwest Kansas region!

CANDY CORN FOR HALLOWEEN: YUM OR YUCK?

Who knew in the 1880s that a tri-colored, corn-shaped substance that was sometimes known as "chicken feed" would be a well-known treat today? Thankfully, the manufacturing process today is more automated than the runners carrying buckets of corn syrup mixtures to molded candy trays. Learn more about the history and how candy corn is made today [here!](#) Have a happy and safe Halloween!



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!