

Governor Unveils New Resources for NH Manufacturers

CONCORD – Saying that manufacturing is an essential part of New Hampshire's economy and its future, Gov. John Lynch today unveiled new resources for the state's manufacturing.

"It's fitting that during National Manufacturing Week, we are assembled here to celebrate a renewed commitment to our state's manufacturers," Lynch said. "Manufacturing is vital to the state's economic well being and we've developed a plan to help ensure its continued viability and health. This is an exciting day for businesses throughout the state."

The action plan includes a new website, www.nhmanufacturing.com, designed to help manufacturers discover a wide range of available resources including funding sources, workforce development programs, import/export resources, advocacy initiatives, and research and development programs. Developed by the Knowledge Institute, this virtual web portal will be available beginning April 15.

The plan also includes a workforce training fund, coordinated through the state's Workforce Opportunity Council, to provide companies with up to \$7,500 for programs designed to enhance the skills of newly hired or current employees.

Gov. Lynch also announced that in conjunction with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the State will host a three-day "Governor's Manufacturing Leadership Series" on issues ranging from lean manufacturing and product development to overseas trade and market positioning.

In addition, the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center is exploring the development of an education-and-outreach program to publicize financing information of particular concern to manufacturers.

The Governor's announcement was made in coordination with participants in the New Hampshire Manufacturing Initiative. Convened by the New Hampshire Division of Economic Development, the New Hampshire Manufacturing Initiative is a collaborative effort of the Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Workforce Opportunity Council, the New Hampshire High Tech Council, the Knowledge Institute, the New Hampshire Small Business Development Center, educational institutions and local manufacturers to continue a dialogue with state public policy leaders on important issues to manufacturers and to provide information on the economic impact of the industry in the Granite State.

"This action plan was created after a year of meeting with manufacturing CEOs, listening to their concerns and then developing concrete, workable solutions," New Hampshire Division of Economic Development Director Stuart Arnett said. "The manufacturers we've spoken to are delighted that we've made the health of their industry top priority."