



Manufacturing Matters

Updates from CT's
Chief Manufacturing Officer,
Paul Lavoie

The Office of Manufacturing (OOM) hosted a Manufacturing Ambassador event at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton, featuring a tour of the Three Rivers manufacturing program and lunch prepared by culinary students. David Allard of the Eastern Workforce Alliance Board (EWIB) provided an update on MPI, YPI, and EWIB initiatives.

The OOM joined key stakeholders of the Connecticut Wind Collaborative on a boat trip to the South Fork Wind Farm. Attendees gained valuable insights into Connecticut's pivotal role in advancing the offshore wind industry.

The CT Manufacturing Careers Roadshow made a stop at Waterbury's Manufacturing Alliance Service Corp (MASC), offering middle and high school students an immersive glimpse into the manufacturing industry. Attendees explored interactive exhibits and met with local industry leaders, including ASML and Electric Boat.

The OOM proudly attended the Electric Boat Annual High Schools Signing Day event at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School, where over 250 students committed to starting their careers at Electric Boat in Groton and Quonset Point.



Manufacturing Innovation Fund (MIF)

Program Updates

FIRST Robotics received \$2.27 million from the MIF to expand STEM programming for Connecticut's k-12 school system. [ReadyCT](#) will oversee Connecticut's FIRST Robotics programming in partnership with [New England FIRST](#).

[Million Women Mentors Connecticut Chapter](#), in collaboration with Southern Connecticut State University, launched the Million Women Mentors database. This free online platform offers mentorship for women in manufacturing and other STEM fields across Connecticut. It provides access to a powerful network of mentors ready to guide, inspire, and empower.

"Made Here" is a six-part social media video series designed to inspire young adults to pursue manufacturing careers. The series is produced and hosted by local

manufacturing advocate and content creator, Javi Melecio. New videos will be released on the first Tuesday of each month. Click [here](#) to watch the first episode.

ElevateHER CT's Woman Manufacturing Advisory Council met for its quarterly meeting to address the barriers and solutions for women entering manufacturing careers. Click [here](#) to watch the video produced by Pat Lore, Executive Producer at Headline Productions, to learn more about the opportunities for growth and development for women in manufacturing.

INDUSTRY NEWS

Contracts Secured

Pratt & Whitney secured more than \$691.6 million across three military contracts, reaffirming its role as a pivotal supplier to the U.S. Department of Defense.

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\$100 Million Boost

Governor Lamont announced the creation of the Connecticut Innovation Clusters Program, a \$100 million initiative aimed at boosting key sectors including biotechnology, financial

technology, insurance technology, and advanced manufacturing in support of national defense.

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New Leadership

The Connecticut Wind Collaborative recently named its first executive director, Kristin Urbach, who brings seven years of offshore wind industry knowledge to bolster Connecticut's burgeoning role in the sector.

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Company Rebrand

Shelton-based West-Conn Tool, a precision contract manufacturer specializing in the medical device and aerospace industries, has rebranded as Westconn Precision Technologies. This new name highlights its pioneering role as one of the first additive and subtractive manufacturing sites in New England.

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MANUFACTURER SPOTLIGHT

Company:

Fairchild Auto-Mated Parts

Owners:

Leland Licciardi and Kirsten Failing

In 2021, [Fairchild Auto-Mated Parts](#), a precision machining manufacturer in Winsted, CT, sought new ownership. Leland Licciardi, an engineer on Lockheed Martin's F-35 program, and his now wife, Kirsten Failing, a manager at strategy consulting firm Oliver Wyman, embraced the opportunity. With their professional expertise, Leland and Kirsten aimed to preserve Fairchild's legacy while leading the company into a new era.

Under their leadership and with the support of experienced staff, Fairchild has maintained its renowned customer service and product quality, while fostering a culture of continuous improvement. They have modernized operations, enhanced aerospace capabilities, and invested in new technologies. As Fairchild Auto-Mated Parts continues to innovate and grow, it exemplifies the enduring strength and adaptability of Connecticut's manufacturing industry.