



## MEETING SUMMARY

### **FLATE INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Hoerbiger Corporation of America  
3350 Gateway Drive  
Pompano Beach, FL 33065

**Thursday, May 6, 2010**  
**4:30 – 6:30 PM**

#### **FLATE and Guest Participants**

Members Present: Mark Snyder, Bruce Driggett.

Guests Present: Tom Kennedy, Dennis Battistella, Tom Kipp, Bob Gilbert, Gil Lugo, Scott Thompson, Elise Chandler.

FLATE members: Marilyn Barger, Richard Gilbert, Brad Jenkins, Phil Centonze.

Members and Guests on Adobe: Ed Niespdziany, Drew Hoff, Adrienne Gould-Choquette, Eric Roe, Alex Anzalone, Donat Forrest, Chet Sadler, Terry Iverson, John Stilp, Tina Brudnicki, Marie Boyette, Janice Mukhia, Jody Sutton.

Members Excused: JoAnne Larsen, Peter Straw, Steven Meitzen, Meer Almeer, Ruly Lopez, Ernie Friend, John Debella, Stan Sidor, Sherry Reeves, Idelia Phillips, Patti Gander, Leigh Haller, Eric Dickinson, Ginger Clark, Eric Owens, Ernie Helms, Mike Ennis, Andy Holloway, Mark Gaudio, Denise Sanderson, Nancy Stephens, Mark Ericksen.

#### **Hoerbiger Corporation Welcome:**

Brad Jenkins introduced Bruce Driggett, VP of Human Resources, and Tom Kipp, VP of Production who welcomed everyone to Hoerbiger Corporation and gave a brief description of Hoerbiger and the manufacturing of their main product, plate valves for reciprocating compressors. They thanked everyone for the opportunity to host this important FLATE IAC meeting at their plant.

## **Introduction of Committee Members and Guests:**

Mark Snyder welcomed the advisory members, the call in members, the industry from south Florida, and guests to the FLATE IAC Meeting. The Adobe Connect conference call connection was provided by HCC in Tampa for those members calling from around the state. Mark also remarked that the goal of this FLATE IAC meeting is to engage stakeholders in south Florida to become actively involved with FLATE and its mission. Mark remarked that the poster scoreboard was on display so that the local south Florida industry could score their knowledge on the questions presented by FLATE.

## **Short and Long Term Needs:**

Phil Centonze conducted this session that covered the differences and similarities between training and education. Two different case studies related to their manufacturing and production situations and what could help these companies in the way of either training or education. Attendees reviewed these case studies in a group setting to determine if the company needed training, education or a combination based upon their current situation. Case situations were identified as short term, more affected by training conducted either through the company, outside vendors, or long term strategic situations where certificates or college level courses and programs would be of great help. The groups were also asked to distinguish between these two approaches. This session provided the background for the help that FLATE can provide to industry.

## **Overview of FLATE – Mission and Focus:**

The overview, mission, and focus of FLATE were presented by Marilyn Barger. Marilyn reported that with the 5<sup>th</sup> year in existence for FLATE, the size of the geographical region has changed and we really need to expand to other parts of the state, especially the south Florida region to work with the industry and their local colleges. FLATE has three major goals: Curriculum Development, Outreach and Recruitment, and Professional Development.

The presentation revolved around the three main issues related to Curriculum Development: identifying specific technical workforce needs for 2010; focusing on industry certifications like the alignment of the Certified Production Technician (CPT) using the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council's (MSSC) standards; and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) perspective. Marilyn explained all the aspects and development that FLATE used to identify the workforce needs and how FLATE blended the training and education together for the industry MSSC certification to receive college credit in those colleges that have the degree program. FLATE now has a working relationship with NAM as Marilyn presented the NAM model, the Skills Certification System. FLATE has also worked with the secondary high schools to align their curriculum with the MSSC so the students will be able to move directly into the AS degree in Engineering Technology with the articulated college credits.

A map of the state was shown indicating that 10 community colleges have now implemented the Engineering Technology. There are now 13 different college credit certificates being offered. The future specialties developed include Power Operations, Engineering Sciences, and General Technologies. The degree diagram indicated the certificate pathway with the MSSC certification and how this career pathway follows through with the AS degree and the associated specializations.

The general discussion followed the FLATE presentation and the IAC members and industry representatives were much in favor of working with education and wanted to make the industry certifications important especially the MSSC certification. Eric Roe, from Polk State College, mentioned the value that the MSSC had in Polk county and through the work with the Polk Manufacturing Council, Polk State College now has the Engineering Technology degree program. It was indicated that industry had to see the value added that the MSSC would have to the industry and their employees. One way to show the importance and recognition of the MSSC would be to include this certification in the hiring process. John Stilp, from Milwaukee and the chair of the FLATE National Visitation Committee, remarked that industry in Wisconsin is recognizing the value of the MSSC in their industry. The members also thought that it was important for industry to work with their local colleges to bring the MSSC certification into those college programs. Tom Kennedy, from the SFMA, was most enthusiastic of working with education on these initiatives.

Marilyn also provided handout material to the members relating to the Outreach and Recruitment activities that FLATE is involved. These included the Florida Trend NEXT magazine Advertorial that is distributed to all high schools in Florida, the “Made in Florida” outreach campaign, the robotics camps, and the industry tours for middle and high school students.

The Professional Development activities that FLATE has includes short term training courses for teachers, the “Toothpick Factory” simulation, the workshop presentations at the state Engineering Technology Forums, and sponsorship for college faculty to attend the Hi-TEC Conference that is coming to Orlando and the state of Florida for the first time, July 26-29, 2010

**Action Items:**

1. The FLATE Staff will be meeting with Donat Forrest, Associate Dean, Engineering Technology and Computer Science, Broward College, to discuss the educational and industry opportunities.
2. Recruit more FLATE IAC members from the south Florida region.
3. Provide information on conducting industry tours in south Florida.

**Tentative date for next Industrial Advisory Meeting:**

Thursday, September 16, 2010, 4:30-6:30 pm, at the State College of Florida -Manatee-Sarasota, Manatee Campus

Mark Snyder thanked the staff from Hoerbiger for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments. He also thanked the FLATE IAC advisory members and guests, along with the participants on the Adobe Connect for their support. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30PM to tour the Hoerbiger plant.

Respectively submitted,

Brad Jenkins