

Manufacturing in the News

April 2009

THURS 04.02.09 Florida Trade Fuels the Southeast

Lara L. Sowinski, World Trade Magazine

While U.S. foreign trade flows are pretty much down across the board, one of the sunnier spots is Florida, which continues to bask in the expansion of imports, exports, and foreign direct investment.

In South Florida alone (Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties) foreign trade last year grew by more than \$10 billion to a record \$90.2 billion thanks in large part to a boom in exports to Latin America.

Full Article: http://www.worldtrademag.com/Articles/Feature_Article/BNP_GUID_9-5-2006_A_1000000000000563254

MON 04.06.09 Veterinary medical device maker launches new product for global markets from Bradenton location

Manatee Chamber of Commerce

A Bradenton company that has patents pending on one of the world's first affordable, portable veterinary endoscopes has launched the second generation of the PortaScope® device, which is assembled in Bradenton, according to Nancy Engel, executive director of the Economic Development Council, Manatee Chamber of Commerce (EDC). The company will exhibit the instrument and other products in June at HOSPITALAR, the leading health trade show in Brazil and Latin America, with the help of a \$1,000 international trade grant from Enterprise Florida facilitated by the EDC.

Full Article: <http://www.manateeedc.com/NewsList.aspx>

TUES 04.07.09 Pet Ecology Brands, Inc. Becomes Operational in New Headquarters and Manufacturing Facility

Pet Ecology Brands, Inc.

Pet Ecology Brands, Inc. (PINKSHEETS: PECD) announced that its new 15,000 square state of the art manufacturing facility in Miami, Florida is now operational. The facility has been specifically designed for the custom manufacturing of its patented litter products to include conveying, blending and packaging equipment for high volume requirements. The manufacturing site, co-located with the Company's corporate offices includes a fully equipped testing laboratory for quality assurance and new product development. It is intended that other products will eventually be produced from this same facility.

Full Article: <http://www.marketwire.com/press-release/Pet-Ecology-Brands-Inc-971491.html>

THUS 04.09.09 Manufacturing: Wise Investment

Florida Times Union

Florida prospered as a tourist destination, a low-cost, low-wage state. That model no longer works. Florida has become a high-cost state. Suddenly, the low wages are out of sync. Dramatic changes must be made to this model. One of them is to improve the state's educational system. Another is to encourage more manufacturing.

- MON** **04.13.09** **Advanced Solar Photonics to Manufacture Thin Film and Mono-Crystalline Modules**
CleanRooms Magazine
- Advanced Solar Photonics, (ASP), a developer of laser marking, scribing, edge deletion and edge isolation systems for the solar industry, has increased the product line for its previously announced SolarFab™ project in Lake Mary, Florida to include not only thin film, but also mono-crystalline solar modules.
- "Originally, our SolarFab™ production plant would only manufacture thin film modules, up to 40MW. However, due to high response for our panels, Advanced Solar Photonics will not only be producing thin film, but also mono-crystalline panels," said Maureen McHale, Corporate Marketing and Public Relations Manager for ASP. "This new silicon line would initially be 25MW, ramping up to 50MW in a fairly short span of time."
- Full Article: http://cr.pennnet.com/display_article/359127/15/ARTCL/none/TOPST/1/Advanced-Solar-Photonics-to-Manufacture-Thin-Film-and-Mono-Crystalline-Modules/
- FRI** **04.17.09** **Sleek audio expands jobs and manufacturing in Palmetto**
Jane Meinhardt, Jacksonville Business Journal
- Sleek Audio, an emerging company born from what its founder describes as the union of hearing aid science and loudspeaker technology, is moving its manufacturing to Palmetto and expanding by 15 to 20 employees this year. The 11-employee, family-owned company recently moved into the third floor of a downtown building, leasing 8,000 square feet. Previously, Sleek Audio shared space with a hearing aid business in a 2,000-square-foot site in Bradenton.
- Full Article: <http://jacksonville.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/othercities/tampabay/stories/2009/04/20/story5.html?b=1240200000^1813692>
- TUES** **04.21.09** **Manufacturers push tax abatement**
Grace Gagliano, Bradenton Herald
- Local manufacturers couldn't get the state to eliminate a tax issue facing their industry so now they'll seek cooperation from county officials. The Sarasota Manatee Area Manufacturers Association wants Manatee and Sarasota county commissioners to develop a tax abatement program that would eliminate the property tax manufacturers pay annually on heavy machinery and equipment.
- Manufacturers say the tax exemption is needed statewide to make Florida more attractive to recruiting and retaining companies.
- Full Article: <http://www.bradenton.com/business/story/1379883.html>
- Mon** **04.20.09** **Chromalloy casting Tampa Corp. plans \$16.5 million expansion**
Tampa Bay Business Journal
- Chromalloy Casting Tampa Corp. will invest \$16.5 million to expand its engine component manufacturing operation, leading to possibly adding 200 high-wage jobs in the Tampa Bay area.
- The company is an independent manufacturer of turbine engine components

and has global customers, a release said.

The Tampa plant has been in operation for 19 years and currently employs 195 people. Expansion is starting now, and new equipment is scheduled to be installed in July.

Full Article: <http://www.bizjournals.com/tampabay/stories/2009/04/20/daily13.html>

THURS 04.23.09 Chocolate manufacturer gears up new plant in Manatee County

www.mysuncoast.com

A company that hopes to revolutionize the chocolate business is gearing up a new, 6,000 sq. ft. research laboratory and manufacturing facility in Manatee County, according to Nancy Engel, executive director of the Economic Development Council, Manatee Chamber of Commerce (EDC). Healthy Chocolate Florida LLC founder Aharon Friedman, TUPh.D., said that pending government inspections, the company's management team will begin testing the manufacturing line in April and production will ramp up in May.

Full Article: http://www.mysuncoast.com/Global/story.asp?S=10236570&nav=menu577_2_1

WED 04.29.09 Solar-panel plant and headquarters could bring 3,600 jobs to Orange County

David Damron, Orlando Sentinel

A solar-equipment manufacturer from Ohio signed a preliminary deal with a local development company Tuesday to build a plant and headquarters just outside Orlando, a project that could create up to 3,600 high-paying jobs by the time it's done in roughly six years, an executive with the firm said. Orange County likely has beaten out -- for now, if not completely -- a number of competing bids from Florida and elsewhere to land the project.

Full Article: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/orl-bk-solar-plant-orlando-042809.0.7206883.story>

General Manufacturing in the News

April 2009

WED 04.01.09 National business briefs | Manufacturing index rises in March

[Kansas City.com](http://www.kansascity.com)

The Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index rose to 36.3 in March from 35.8 in February. Even with the small increase, the index is well below the reading of 50 that is the dividing line between growth and recession. The index hit a 28-year low of 32.9 in December. The report, based on a poll of purchasing executives, covers indicators including new orders, production, employment, inventories and prices. None of the 18 manufacturing industries grew in March, and new jobs are unlikely before next year.

Full Article: <http://www.kansascity.com/business/story/1119705.html>

April

U.S. Machine Tool Industry Is On The Brink: How Does An Industry Survive Without Any Orders?

Richard A. McCormack

The U.S. machine tool industry is on the verge of oblivion. What was once considered to be one of America's most important strategic industries — described by President Ronald Reagan in a statement on May 26, 1986, as being a “vital component of the U.S. defense base” — the U.S. machine tool sector is in a freefall. Orders for new machine tools have virtually stopped. U.S. machine tool producers — the few that remain after years of unrelenting unfair trade practices — are doing whatever they can to stay alive.

The situation is “desperate,” says Ron Schildge, chairman of the Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT) and president of Eitel Presses Inc. in Orwigsburg, Penn. “There is some activity in the used machine and rebuilt machinery market, but the new machinery market is virtually dead.”

Full Article: <http://www.manufacturingnews.com/news/09/0331/machinetools.html>

MON 04.06.09 Manufacturing skill standard may set workers apart

ALESHIA HOWE, Forth Worth Business Press

As the manufacturing sector continues to take hits nationwide, industry leaders are hard at work bringing their massive workforce standards and certifications program online – and they can't do it without North Texas business leaders and educators.

Members of the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council addressed hundreds of local business leaders March 26 at the North Texas Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics Summit held in Grapevine.

Full Article: <http://www.fwbusinesspress.com/display.php?id=9901>