

Creators Wanted: October spotlights strong careers in Manufacturing

40,200

RI manufacturing employment
as of August 2021

9.5%

of total private, non-farm jobs in RI
as of August 2021

10%

RI manufacturing wage increase
in July 2021



During Manufacturing Month (and every month), Polaris MEP is focusing on workforce challenges through recruiting events and training programs. Let's discuss how we are working to fill jobs and supporting RI manufacturers -- I'd love to attend an event with you.

(508-523-5498; kmahoney@polarismep.org).

Kathie Mahoney, Center Director

Visit: [PolarisMEP.org/CreatorsWantedRI](https://polarismep.org/CreatorsWantedRI)

HONORS & HEADLINES

- ✦ Hindley Manufacturing Company Inc. and Maxson Automatic Machinery Company win 2021 Rhode Island Manufacturing Awards
- ✦ SEACORP awarded 5-year, \$36Mil Navy contract, part of a SBIR program
- ✦ American Cord and Webbing Co. product work in Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony
- ✦ Swarovski Optik named one of Providence Business News Best Places to Work
- ✦ Polaris MEP's Workforce Manager Lindsey Brickle named to "40 under Forty" leadership list

OUR CURRENT/RECENT INITIATIVES

- ✦ Machine & Marine wage/training reimbursement of up to \$6K, funded by federal CARES act
- ✦ Supplier matchmaking for new resources and sales opportunities across the US
- ✦ JARC-RI – training center that addresses manufacturing skills shortage, while also working with individuals to transition them out of poverty and ultimately build wealth
- ✦ New partnerships with RI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, RIHub
- ✦ VR training pilot in RI CTE schools – <https://bit.ly/3EyeAqZ>

“ If I hadn't learned about lean manufacturing and Polaris MEP, I don't know where I would be today. I'm really thankful that [Polaris MEP] is available as a tool. I am always recommending it to other people.

Minnie Luong, CEO,
Chi Kitchen



 \$50,000 in cost savings  \$100,000 in new sales  8 new or retained jobs

“ The staff at Polaris MEP is focused on results rather than just delivering some standardized approach. We give Polaris MEP very high marks as an organization that meets and exceeds expectations.

Richard Nadeau, Vice President,
Videology Imaging Solutions, Inc.



 3 new or retained jobs  More than \$25,000 increased investment

“ (Polaris MEP) opened our eyes to the full potential impact of Lean and Continuous Improvement.

Karl Wadensten, President,
VIBCO



 Turnaround time improved 80%  32% less shipping waste  Productivity up 35%

“ Polaris MEP made it easy for me to pick my own ending and what was going to be most useful for Lost Art Cultured Foods.

Kaylyn Keane, Owner,
Lost Art Cultured Foods



 \$1,560 in annual savings  Increased profits  Reduced packing time by 10%-20%

DURING PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN, RI JOB SHOP PURSUES ISO QUALITY CERTIFICATION TO OPEN DOORS

COMPANY PROFILE

R&R Machine Industries, Inc. is a full-service, CNC contract machine shop. The job shop sets itself apart by providing clients with seamless service, not only milling and turning but also guiding outsourced parts through other manufacturers for heat treating or other work. "We deliver the complete part," explains Vice President/CFO Renay Legare Curran.

SITUATION

Curran says R&R's quality system always followed the international quality standards published by ISO. However, "Even though you follow the standards of ISO, not having that certificate can close doors. They won't even recognize you."

It was the summer of 2020, so many doors were closed for a different reason, the COVID-19 pandemic. Existing business had been put on hold; R&R's workforce had been reduced.

Wanting to build back better and expand the business, the team set its sights on ISO 9001:2015 certification. Curran and sister/teammate Diane Legare Ranslow contacted their industry association, the Rhode Island Manufacturing Association, for recommendations and were introduced to Polaris MEP.

SOLUTION

Polaris MEP implemented an ISO 9001:2015-compliant quality management system (QMS) that would pass registration audit and begin opening doors to more sales.

The client and the manufacturing consulting team first worked remotely via web-conference and later in on-site meetings that followed COVID safety protocols. Polaris MEP walked the client through a document review and Gap Analysis of their existing quality systems. The MEP assisted in writing a Quality Manual, associated procedures and work instructions to ensure conformance with ISO Standards.

Polaris MEP also helped R&R secure grant funding from the State of Rhode Island for training for all 15 employees. Finally, Cinieri conducted an internal audit to ensure they were on their way to success.



\$9,950 in client investments



2 skilled worker jobs added



17 jobs retained



“

Big thank you's to Chris Cinieri who was not only a great pleasure to work beside but each step during the process he had a big hand in making it attainable. Chris, you made it seem seamless. Can't express our gratitude enough.

”

Renay Curran
Vice President/CFO

Read the full success story at: <https://bit.ly/3xnpgEL>