



CONNECTICUT

Office of Manufacturing

Update – January 2024

Highlights

Here are highlights from the Office of Manufacturing for January 2024.

1. The Office of Manufacturing Update will be produced monthly on the third Monday of each month. There will be a standing meeting of the Connecticut Manufacturing Collaborative that will be held on that date and this update will serve as the foundation for the discussion.
2. The Office of Manufacturing hosted a team from the Department of Defense – Office of Local Community Cooperation (OLDCC), including the Executive Director. We began the visit with a tour of Electric Boat and a briefing on workforce and supply chain from EB. We then met with the mayors and first selectman of Groton, Ledyard and New London to discuss building strong communities to support our military installations and military contractors. This was hosted by the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton and Commander Ken Curtin gave an overview of the Submarine Base. We finished the day with a tour of the Submarine Base including a visit on the USS Delaware.
3. The Office of Manufacturing hosted a delegation from the New England Regional Defense Industry Collaboration at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology in East Hartford. NERDIC is the recipient of a grant from OLDCC and we provided an update of the

grant. We then meet as a group to discuss NERDIC strategy for 2024 and strengthening the defense sector in the New England Region.

4. On January 19th, we held the inaugural meeting of ElevateHER, CT's women manufacturing advisory council. This advisory council invested their time to tackle three challenges women face in developing and growing their careers in manufacturing. We have created three committees – Development, Experience and Networking and we are working on setting up the infrastructure for this initiative.
5. At the January Manufacturing Innovation Fund Board Meeting, the Board approved the following investments in growing our manufacturing sector.

Funded FORGE for the Innovator Matching Program and the Product Development Program for 2024 at \$811,800. This will allow FORGE to continue operations in CT and to provide funding for product development grants to accelerate innovation in the CT economy.

Funded the Faculty Fellowship program at CCAT for \$283,000 for a one year pilot program to support the training of up to 9 professors at CT universities on Industry 4.0 technologies. This will require professors to write industry 4.0 into their curriculum.

This is in addition to the programs approved in the November meeting.

Funded the Manufacturing Voucher Program (MVP) at \$5.0M to provide funding until June 30th, 2024. [Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology \(CCAT\)](#) will begin accepting starting December 1st.

Funded a Statewide First Robotics program at \$2,270,638 for two years to support [FIRST](#) Robotics programs across Connecticut. [ReadyCT](#) will lead this effort for the MIF.

Funded the Engineering Internship program for \$1,079,900 for two years to continue to provide funding for college internships in the manufacturing sector so we can ensure that if "you learn in Connecticut, you earn in Connecticut". [Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology \(CCAT\)](#) is our lead on this program.

Funded the Hearts and Minds 2.0 campaign at \$2,000,000 for two years to continue to market manufacturing careers in CT. H&M 1.0 was a success, and we look forward to continuing to reach out to change the perception of manufacturing and drive people to life changing manufacturing careers. Looking forward to working with [Cronin](#) on this campaign.

Funded the Career Roadshow program at \$497,219 for two years. In 2023, we reached over 5,000 middle and high school students, introducing them to manufacturing careers. [ReadyCT](#) leads this effort.

6. In January, we launched the Connecticut Wind Collaborative. The CWC was created to implement CT's Offshore Wind Strategic Roadmap. The Clean Economy falls under the Office of Manufacturing, and we will be working to build out a manufacturing supply chain for the offshore wind industry. We are currently searching for an executive director and a marketing agency to handle branding and website development.

Existing Programs to support Driving Innovation (12)

PROGRAM	PARTNER	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
<p>Manufacturing Voucher Program</p>	<p>CCAT</p>	<p>MVP has been funded at \$7.1M for FY23. We have \$ 0 available to be awarded. Here is the application rate for 2023.</p> <p>January – \$378, 258 February - \$137,349 March - \$1,050,970 April - \$292,000 May - \$484,000 June - \$571,850 July – \$510,730 August - \$237,837 September - \$292,538 October - \$0 November \$0 December \$0 January \$0</p> <p>We began accepting applications in December. As of February 1st, we have \$1,4,000,000 in backlog to be processed.</p>	<p>New funding to CCAT is in process. Should be to them by 2/15.</p>
<p>FORGE Innovation Ecosystem</p>	<p>CTNEXT</p>	<p>FORGE Impact is an organization that connects startups with manufacturers, design firms and engineers. They are building a CT ecosystem to support manufacturing startups, product development and innovation. .</p>	<p>FORGE received additional funding to continue to stimulate the growth of the innovation economy in CT Manufacturing</p>

Additive Technology Adoption Program for Manufacturing	CCAT	The MIF has funded an industry-driven program to drive the adoption of additive manufacturing technologies, with a focus on small to medium size manufacturers. This is an important initiative that is available at no cost to manufacturers to evaluate the technology and decide on an implementation path.	6 Competitive \$100,000 grants are available to drive additive manufacturing in CT. Applications are open in January.
Composite Manufacturing	CCAT	We have currently invested, with CCAT and Raytheon, in a composite center on the campus of Goodwin University. Phase 1 is completed, and Raytheon has expressed a desire to not continue with Phase 2.	Waiting for a letter from Raytheon to close out Phase 1 and will then review a proposal from CCAT on Phase 2
Digital Transformation	CCAT	The MIF has invested in a statewide industry driven program to drive adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies and to drive the competitiveness of the CT industrial base. We need to drive Industrial Automation in the manufacturing sector	We have grants available for Industry 4.0 adoption with CCAT
Digital Model Initiative 2.0	CCAT CONNSTEP CENTRAL CT	We have signed the contract and we are moving forward with our DoD grant to build scale in the MBD environment.	Hired Lakisha Pryor as Industry 4.0 Program Manager. Working on filling Grant and Contracts Administrator Position
Smart Industry Ready Index (SIRI) and Cybersecurity Assessments	CONNSTEP/CCAT	MIF Funded at \$1,175,000 We have \$993,000 to invest in this program. We voted to close this program on 12/31/23 and to return funding to the MIF. The Board will rethink our approach to Assessments and how we provide funding.	MIF Board will be reviewing a proposal to reenergize this program
Manufacturing Roundtables	UConn Capital Community College	We have held 4 manufacturing roundtables at the UConn Tech Park and 1 at Capital Community College. The objective of the roundtables is to bring Industry and Educators together to bridge the skills gap and to engage manufacturers with our educators to deliver students that meet the workforce needs of industry.	One scheduled for March 2024
Chips and Science Act	Internal	We have created the CT CHIP Consortium to build a list of companies that can take advantage of CHIPS funding. We are working with companies to submit applications.	2 Applications submitted with state support, additional applications submitted with assistance from the federal funds team.

Workforce Innovation Industrial Automation	CCAT/CONNSTEP/UCONN	To meet the workforce needs in CT, we need to drive industrial automation. While workforce development (OWS) and workforce growth (OTG, Legislature) programs need to continue, we need to accelerate industrial automation to get machines to do the work for the people that don't exist. We are planning on a 6 year plan to Engage, Education and Enable the manufacturing sector to adopt Industry 4.0 technologies	CCAT, CONNSTEP and UCONN are working on a joint proposal to accelerate Innovation in the Industrial Base. Preliminary presentation to the MIF Board in February with a follow up in March.
Federal Tech Hub	Many	We have been awarded a Federal Tech Hub grant with a focus on Manufacturing and Digital Transformation (Model Based Definition) We received a strategy grant, and we are posting for a Regional Innovation Officer to manage the grant.	Posting on Regional Innovation Officer will be out week of 2/12.
First Robotics	ReadyCT	Funded a two-year First Robotics program statewide. ReadyCT will hire a state wide robotics coordinator and we will provide equity to all students interested in getting involved with Robotics	We will have final approval and funding to ReadyCT in February

Existing Programs to Support Workforce Development (14)

Industry and Education Summit	Office of Workforce Strategy	The Office of Manufacturing and the Office of Workforce Strategy are planning an Industry and Education Summit to bring industry and educators together to engage in meaningful discussions regarding workforce needs.	We continue to engage with Education and Industry and build connections. This has been deprioritized as the OWS works on their strategic Plan
First Robotics	ReadyCT	Funded a two-year First Robotics program statewide. ReadyCT will hire a state wide robotics coordinator and we will provide equity to all students interested in getting involved with Robotics	Funding will be released in February 2024.
Incumbent Worker Training	CCAT	We funded the IWT program at \$1,402,500 We have \$919,609 available to invest in incumbent worker training. Next update on funding will be March 30, 2024 We changed two key parts of the program. We reduced the minimum from \$5,000 to zero and we increased the employer participation rate from 300 to 1,000.	Continue to market the program to increase participation

Apprenticeship Funding Program	DOL/CCAT	We funded the Apprenticeship Funding program at \$940K. We have \$632,500 available to invest in Apprenticeships.	Proposal on Apprenticeship program will be presented at the February Meeting
Internship Program	CCAT	Funded a two-year internship program for cohort #2 (2024) and cohort #3 (2025) to continue the work done in earlier cohorts	CCAT is in the implementation phase
Hearts and Minds Advertising	Cronin	Funded the Hearts and Minds campaign to continue to promote manufacturing. Our new frontier is reaching the kitchen table where career decisions are being made or in some cases, replace the kitchen table where there isn't one.	Cronin is in the research phase.
Vocational Villages Program	Department of Corrections	Working with the DOC on a program to assimilate 2 nd chance people into the manufacturing sector. This is an underutilized group of people that can change their lives through a career in manufacturing.	I have been named to the Vocational Villages Advisory Board. We are working on building a consortium of manufacturers that are interested in providing career opportunities.
ElevateHER Women Manufacturing Advisory Board	Many	Building a Women in Manufacturing Advisory Board to advise the Chief Manufacturing Officer on promoting manufacturing opportunities for women and girls.	Outstanding meeting – 48 participants and we are working on committees.
Faculty Fellow Program	CCAT	MIF Board approved a program to take 9 professors out of the classroom and to train them on Industry 4.0 technologies. Once they complete the training, we will require them to write new curriculum to meet the needs of the manufacturing industry	Approved in January
Career Road Shows	ReadyCT	2024 Career Road shows are back! They will be held in 5 locations across the state. First event is in March with the Rep. Liz Lenihan Manufacturing Career Fair in the Capitol Building	Ready to go!
Make it Here 2023	Many	Make it Here 2030 is CT's plan to full employment in the Manufacturing Sector by 2030. It will be the definitive guide to all of the workforce programs in the manufacturing sector	April 2024 Launch
Veterans	Bill Leahy	Working with a non-profit to test a program to make it easier for veterans to transition into the manufacturing workforce in CT	2024 Launch

Neurodiverse workers	CCARC	Working with CCARC on a program to introduce neurodiverse individuals to the manufacturing sector	Proposal for Board consideration in February
Educator Meetings	Many	Met with Danielle Wilkins, University of Bridgeport President Met with President John Maduko and Provost Levy Brown to discuss CT State and manufacturing	On going.

Programs to Support Supply Chain Resiliency and Cost Reduction Initiatives (4)

CONNEX Supply Chain Database	CONNSTEP	<p>A comprehensive database of all Connecticut manufacturers with anticipated adoption by all 50 states by the end of 2023. We will use this database for supply base connections and as a marketplace for RFI's and RFQ's. We are engaging with the large OEM's and Primes in CT for buyer access and are encouraging manufacturers to build out their profiles. CLICK HERE for access to the CONNEX database. We continue to monitor the quality of the profiles as well as getting more manufacturing companies to enroll.</p> <p>We have had successful collaborations thru the CONNEX platform, with companies becoming certified by Northrup Grumman, Air Force bases reaching out for aerospace parts and CT manufacturers doing business with each other.</p> <p>We just celebrated our 500th company with a profile on CONNEX.</p>	<p>The Connecticut launch has been the most successful launch of CONNEX in the USA.</p> <p>The CONNSTEP team is responsible for the execution and has done an amazing job.</p> <p>We are engaging with CONNSTEP to review and reenergize.</p> <p>We are working with i5 systems on next generation modules.</p>
Manufacturing Concierge Program	Internal	<p>The Manufacturing Concierge Program is a dedicated e-mail address and phone numbers to provide concierge level service to the manufacturing community. It is staffed by the Office of Manufacturing and is designed to link manufacturers to the resources they need. DECD.MFG@CT.GOV</p> <p>We have provided hundreds of manufacturers with concierge level services. We will begin tracking impact in 2024.</p>	<p>We continue to provide concierge level services to CT manufacturers</p>

Federal DOE Smart Manufacturing Grant	Many	Won a DOE Federal Grant on Smart Manufacturing to reduce energy consumption in the manufacturing sector. Partners include UCONN, CCAT, CONNSTEP.	Finalizing details with the Department of Energy and we will be hiring a Program Manager.
Manufacturing Resource Fair	ManufactureCT	Working with ManufactureCT on a program for manufacturers to have all of the resources available to them in one location	April 2024

Programs to support the Clean Economy (3)

Offshore Wind Strategic Roadmap	Many	We launched the Offshore Wind Strategic Roadmap at the Governor’s press conference on October 4 th . We are working on standing up the Connecticut Wind Collaborative to support the OSW industry	Completed
Urban Manufacturing	TBD	Develop a plan for revitalizing manufacturing in urban areas	Develop a plan to present to the Governor and staff
Connecticut Wind Collaborative	Many	Launched the CWC in January – working on Board appointments, hiring an executive director and hiring a marketing agency	In process

Programs to support Communication. (3)

Manufacturing Cabinet	Many	Named a Manufacturing Cabinet comprised of leaders from organizations that are working with state funding to grow and develop manufacturing in CT. Members include CCAT, CONNSTEP, ReadyCT, AdvanceCT, CT Next, and Office of Workforce Strategy. Purpose is to drive collaboration, communication, and coordination with all of the groups	Manufacturing Cabinet Meetings are set for monthly
L4 Tour Visits		Visits in January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medtronic • Luizzi Cheese • Dymotek • Martin Rosol • HABCO • Diant Pharma • Moxie on the Rocks 	
Manufacturing Ambassador Program	Internal	The Manufacturing Ambassador program is designed to multiply our efforts to change the perception of manufacturing in Connecticut. Currently, there are many misconceptions and old stereotypes of our manufacturing sector, and the ambassador program will work to change those hearts and minds. We are developing a portal to register as an ambassador, an education and training series and a swag kit to identify you as a manufacturing ambassador. This is open to anyone interested in promoting manufacturing.	Launched on March 2 nd . We are at 659 ambassadors. First year goal is 300. Moving the goal to 750. Register today - The State of Manufacturing: CT Manufacturing Ambassadors (mfgambassador.com)

Completed Programs (9)

Women In Manufacturing Event	CONNSTEP and many others	Completed	Completed
Career Roadshow	READYCT	We have held 5 Career Roadshows and reached over 5,000 students across the state. . More info is here .	2023 was a success. 2024 and 2025 have been funded.
College Connections	CSCU	Program is closed	Program ended and funding returned.
Energy on the Line	GREEN BANK	Program is closed	Program ended and funding returned.
Manufacturing Month	CCAT	Manufacturing Month 2023 was an amazing success. I had 24 speaking engagements across the state and the manufacturing day event at Kamatics was a big success.	Project completed.
Digital Model Initiative 1.0	CCAT CONNSTEP CENTRAL CT	With a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), we initiated a project to implement Model Based Definition in the CT Defense Supply Chain. The project was successfully completed in August 2022.	Project completed.
Office of Manufacturing Website	DAS	This is a single point of contact for all manufacturers. It will serve as a gateway for all Office of Manufacturing programs including CONNEX, Manufacturing Innovation Fund, Resource Database, Strategic Plans, Ambassador Program and other news and communication. This was launched on March 10 th - Manufacturing -	Monitor performance. Keep content relevant. We continue to add new content to the home page. Check frequently to keep up to date on the latest information
Manufacturing Strategic Plan	Internal	Released on March 9 th . It's on the website. 2023-CT-Mfg-Strategic-Plan---final---HR.pdf .	Updated 2x per year
Intern program	CCAT	Cohort One was successful. 118 Interns were enrolled, 52 employers engaged and 48 college and universities participated. We funded 49 interns and paid \$157,208 in wage subsidies.	The 2023 Cohort was very successful.

Advisory Board Roles – Chief Manufacturing Officer

Member, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECH), Chair, Outreach and Partnership Committee

Member, Governors Council on Women and Girls, Co-Chair, STEM and Education Committee

Member, University of Connecticut Engineering Advisory Board

Member, Sacred Heart University Engineering Advisory Board

Member, Southern New England Industrial Assessment Center

Member, Connecticut Workforce Cabinet

Member, Vocational Villages Advisory Board

Member, Connecticut Planning Commission for Higher Education

Member, Bristol Works Advisory Board

Member, FORGE CT Advisory Board

Board Chair, Connecticut Wind Collaborative

Member, Connecticut Manufacturing Simulation Center

Office of Manufacturing Organizational Chart

