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Essential Manufacturers Continue Productions to Help Provide Necessary Items and Sustain the Economy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

While all non-essential businesses have been ordered by the state to have 100% of their workforce stay home during the COVID-19 pandemic, all essential manufacturers remain open, resilient and committed. These essential manufacturers, which already have an outsized influence on the regional and national economy, are delivering essential products and services and a needed economic boost as the threat of a recession looms.

Essential manufacturers that remain open are committed to workplace safety and must comply with Empire State Development's guidance and New York State Department of Health directives "for maintaining a clean and safe work environment." In addition, many of the region's manufacturers have joined the consortium, "Keeping People Safe and Factories Running" pledging to take extraordinary steps to keep their factories safe for employees and the communities in which they reside. Some of these safety measures include controlling site traffic, enhancing workplace hygiene, and reducing density.

MACNY President & CEO Randy Wolken said, "Essential manufacturers are meeting these challenging times head on. These companies that have been designated as essential are committed to continuing production, all while keeping their employees safe in the workplace. They are practicing social distancing, disinfecting work surfaces and spaces regularly, and maintaining effective communication with their workforce and customers."

Examples of Manufacturers Designated by the State as Essential

Inficon, located in East Syracuse, has had a comprehensive plan in place to ensure that it can accept and ship orders worldwide to satisfy product requirements.

Oliver Wyrsh, President of Inficon, said, "At INFICON, our ability to move fast is a competitive advantage for producing market-leading sensors for a variety of essential industries. Also, regarding this crisis, we saw the need to act fast and proactive to keep people safe and protect the business. The experience we've gained allowed us to assist with initiatives at the local and state level to help save lives and minimize the economic impact."

In Utica, Indium Corporation has continued to manufacture materials for some of the nation's most urgent needs, such as ventilators and first responder networks.

Ross Berntson, President of Indium Corporation states, "We believe manufacturers have a unique ability and responsibility to protect our people and keep running. Doing

so ensures critical industries are supplied and minimizes the economic hardship on our communities. The actions associated with the “Keeping People Safe and Factories Running” Pledge enables us to do so safely. We hope this program also informs public officials on how to keep business running but with a first priority of protecting our employees.”

Gear Motions, a leading employee-owned gear manufacturer in Syracuse, has been putting safety first. Dean Burrows, President of Gear Motions said, “As we remain open and sustain operations, we continue to practice workplace safety such as staggering shifts, remote working and physical distancing. We are proud of our dedicated team that continues to work during these challenging times to help keep production running for their essential customers.”

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