

Manufacturers leverage state's assistance

Job training grant will help Agility attain certification

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DOVER — Two local manufacturing companies have different priorities for utilizing NH Job Training Fund grants they secured in July.

[Agility Manufacturing](#), which specializes in custom made circuit board assembly, will match the \$5,500 state grant for specialized training that will lead to ISO 9001 certification. Agility will work with the [New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership](#) for a seven-month employee training program.

[Vishay HiRel Systems](#) will partner again with [Great Bay Community College](#) for training up to 36 employees in team leadership beginning next month. Vishay HiRel Systems, a Minnesota-headquartered company with a plant in Dover, specializes in high-tech magnetics and power supplies for military, medical and avionic industries, and will match the state's \$3,787 grant for the training that will be led by a facilitator from Great Bay Community College.

Lin Tamulonis, associate vice president for corporate and community education at GBCC, said Vishay HiRel has been determined to establish a strong culture of innovation, training and productivity. Last year, GBCC and Vishay HiRel teamed up for technical training focused on predicting faults in product development earlier in the process. This time, she explained, Vishay HiRel is returning to a "soft skills" training program the company began to emphasize a few years ago.

"We've had a long-standing relationship with them," said Tamulonis, who put together the training proposal in the grant application. "Typically, once a year they do training to move things forward to create team building for their front line workers. It's fabulous that they care enough to pay a trainer to come into their plant to improve their culture. This leadership training is a follow up on training we did two years ago."

This was the first time Agility Manufacturing applied for a training fund grant and the planned training is a top priority to achieve ISO 9001 certification.

ISO 9001 is an international, standards-based measurement system to determine the quality management and regulatory fitness of companies who are certified. Ferrin said his company is "90 percent of the way there" but needs this training regime to pass the final hurdle of the certification process.

"This is really beneficial for us," Ferrin said about his company, which has been named frequently to the Inc. 5000 annual list of fastest growing small- and medium-sized companies in the United States. "This takes our company into a realm we haven't been before."

According to state figures through July, the Job Training Fund has awarded \$6,152,640 in grants since October 2007. Employers have contributed \$8,735,491 for a total of \$14,888,131. Altogether, an estimated 18,285 New Hampshire workers received new training through the program since its inception. For more information, visit www.nhjobtrainingfund.org.

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