



# EAMA RSP HYBRID MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2023

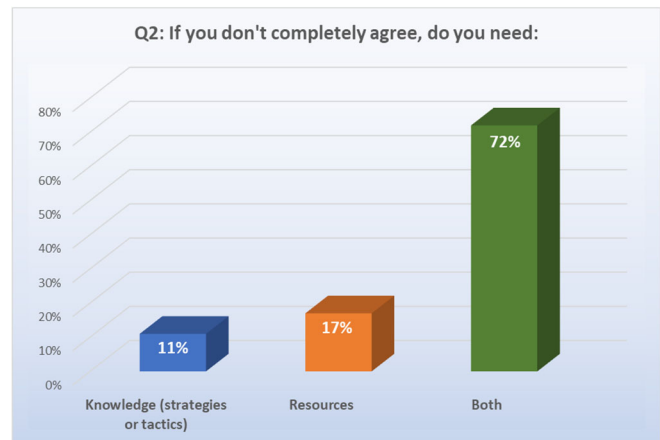
## MEETING REPORT

### Welcome:

Co-Chairman Jewell called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

### Employer Temperature Check: Instant Poll

The EAMA RSP Manufacturers were asked to answer two questions during an instant poll:



A discussion ensued regarding various ways manufacturing members are addressing the challenges they have faced with employee engagement, including several best practices.

### Communication

Mr. Jewell reported on the following items of correspondence:

- a) **"EB \$5.1B Award & Potential Impact to EAMA RSP Manufacturers"** – *The Day* 12/22/22 article reported on the recently announced modification for EB to be the prime contractor for the Columbia submarine program. Mr. Jewell noted that part of the contract modification includes, "enhancements to develop the Submarine Industrial Base," and that EB President Kevin Graney stated, "the strategic investments in the development and expansion of the Submarine Industrial Base will help stabilize and grow the supply chain . . ." which will be beneficial to all the EAMA RSP members who are part of EB's supply chain.

### Update on Steering Committee

EAMA RSP Director Tony Benoit informed the group that an EAMA RSP steering committee is being finalized which will be tasked to provide guidance and set objectives and goals, among other responsibilities, for the full EAMA RSP. The committee will be comprised of a balanced group of sub-committee chairs and members at large. The first meeting will be held in February.

### Updates on EAMA RSP Responsibilities & Initiatives

Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance – A Connecticut Regional Sector Partnership

- **Plastics Program Review Work Group** – Reid Chamberlin reported that the group has identified core common skills that regional plastics manufacturers need, which include the items listed below. EAMA RSP plastics manufacturing members (*or their designees*) are invited to join the Plastics Program Review Work Group.

Basic measuring methods & tools	Mechanical aptitude & troubleshooting
Basic blueprint reading	Soft skills
Basic quality system knowledge	Basic Lean principles
Basic Math skills	Intro to OSHA safety standards
Basic Polymer Science	Intro to plastic industry processes/mfg methods

- **Current & Future Workforce Pipeline**
  - **Adult MPI** – Carol LaBelle shared a handout that provides the latest updates to EWIB’s Adult Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (*MPI*) training and hiring to-date which included:
    - 49 classes were provided in 2021/2022, with 82 *planned* (*but may be revised due to demand and funding*) for 2022/2023
    - 2,904 job placements have been made through the program
    - 80% of those participating in the program have no prior manufacturing experience
    - 30 EAMA RSP manufacturers have hired from the program to-date
  - **Youth MPI** – John Murphy updated the group on the following:
    - 11 schools are actively running YMPI classes this Spring semester, with 86 identified seniors scheduled to take the end of year Performance Evaluation
    - A half-day Spring professional development session is being planned for YMPI teachers at both QVCC and the TRCC MAC
    - YMPI pilot programs at Elementary and Middle schools continue to be run at Norwich, Canterbury, & Plainfield school districts, which includes Virtual Reality headsets to explore manufacturing careers & skills. Currently 239 career exploration users are participating in the pilot programs and 72 manufacturing-specific training/simulations have been completed.
    - EWIB has partnered with Northeast Opportunities for Wellness (*N.O.W.*) for a Mobile Manufacturing Makerspace for K-8<sup>th</sup> graders. To-date, 24 students have participated in January. More makerspace activities have been planned through June 2023 in various E/CT locations.
  - **Youth Welding Merit Badge Event** – Mary Fitzgerald provided an update on the Youth Welding Merit Badge Events that EAMA RSP will be providing on February 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at Collins & Jewell in Bozrah. Each event will have a maximum capacity of 10 youths. They will provide first-hand experience to interested youth as well as an overview of what a career in welding and manufacturing might look like. Chris Jewell noted that an event was held last year and was very successful. Anyone who knows a regional Scout troop is requested to contact Mary Fitzgerald ([mary@acmewire.com](mailto:mary@acmewire.com)). A press release has been sent to local media on the events.
    - **Boy Scout** – February 11, 2023 at Collins & Jewell. Currently five (5) Scouts registered.
    - **Girl Scout/4H** – February 25, 2023 at Collins & Jewell. No response from local Girl Scout troops, therefore opened the event to eight (8) local high schools. Good feedback from Norwich Free Academy and East Lyme High Schools, with three (3) students registered and five (5) others requesting registration forms. Ayanti Grant offered to make a connection to a Girl Scout troop.
- **Business-to-Business Connections** – Charles Daniels shared that a new program funded through the Manufacturing Innovation Fund (*MIF*) is being offered to CT manufacturers. The [CONNEX database](#) will offer every CT manufacturer the ability to enter their capacity and products into the network for free, with a goal of promoting new business, managing supply chain, and business growth. More information will be available after the Beta test group meets next week. He encourages all CT manufacturers to create a profile and noted that CONNSTEP will be available to assist manufacturers to create a free profile & learn how to use the program. Any EAMA RSP manufacturing member (*or their designee*) is invited to join the Business-to-Business Sub-Committee.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held March 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in a hybrid format

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.