

Right Opportunity... Right Place

Plasma-Therm Opens in Pinellas



New business start-up [Plasma-Therm, LLC](#) has selected the [City of St. Petersburg](#), Florida as its home, enhancing Pinellas County's burgeoning advanced manufacturing industry. The semi-conductor equipment manufacturer secured financing recently for an initial capital investment to purchase the land, building and equipment needed to start operations, and plans to create 70 high-wage jobs in its first year. Future investments are planned for construction and renovations, as well as additional equipment.

Jim Pollock, Chief Operating Officer of Plasma-Therm, adds, "The decision to locate our headquarters in Pinellas was driven by our ability to hire employees with the right skill sets to manufacture our products." When an international company manufacturing similar equipment chose to shut down operations in Pinellas, Pollock, along with a team of fellow managers, saw the opportunity to launch Plasma-Therm. "We could have settled anywhere else," explains Pollock, "but Pinellas provided a unique opportunity to hire a workforce with the experience and competency needed to get our operations up and running quickly." In the wake of company closures and economic uncertainty, Plasma-Therm was able to tap into a skilled talent pool available in [Pinellas County](#).

Plasma-Therm specializes in the manufacturing of semi-conductor machinery used in a wide range of high-tech markets such as Photomasking, MEMS, and wireless and LED device manufacturing and technologies

and intends to count many notable companies, both international and domestic, amongst its customer base. The company is also bringing green technology into Pinellas' business mix with its High Efficiency Photovoltaic chip portfolio of products used in space and terrestrial solar applications.

The new company has plans for future growth, aided by its utilization of Florida's **Qualified Target Industry (QTI)** program. Through a partnership between the **Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED)**, **Enterprise Florida**, Pinellas County and the City of St. Petersburg, the QTI program allows new and expanding Florida businesses in targeted, high-growth industries that create new, high-paying jobs to receive tax refunds for every new job created. Plasma-Therm will pay 200% of the average annual wage with its newly created positions, adding to Pinellas' tax base while helping the company to ensure a firm footing in the area.

At a time of national economic challenge, Plasma-Therm's decision to open in St. Petersburg shines a bright light on Pinellas County, illustrating the positive impact of job creation and business support. "It may seem to be an unusual time to open a new business," says Pollock, "but when opportunity knocks, you open the door. The right opportunity came at the right time and we're making it work in the right place; we're looking forward to many years of business in Pinellas."

Learn more about Plasma-Therm at www.plasmatherm.com.

Explore the benefits of locating your business in Pinellas County at www.PCED.org, or call (727) 464-7332 to speak with a Business Development Manager.