

Micro Star - Macro Impact



Micro Star Innovations is proving that turning 64 is hardly cause for slowing down. Rather, the molding and stamping company is celebrating its parent company's 64 years in business by expanding its **Pinellas County** operations. Expansion plans call for doubling Micro Star's existing facility to 30,000 square feet and adding 30 new jobs that will pay 150% of the average annual wage. "At a time when we're seeing daily reports of job losses in the U.S., we're thrilled to say that Micro Star is growing and adding jobs in our community," reports Phil Johnson, General Manager of Micro Star Innovations.

A division of the Micro Stamping Group of Companies, Micro Star Innovations specializes in scientific molding techniques and insert over-molding capabilities. It provides its customers with a one-stop shop for their medical device, automotive component and telecommunication needs. Mr. Johnson explains, "Micro Star sets itself apart by offering its clients everything from design engineering, to molding and stamping, to specialized services such as automated in-line inspection and packaging using specialized robotics."

Located in Largo since 2004, Micro Star has utilized the expertise of **Pinellas County Economic Development** (PCED) staff to help manage its growth. In December

2008, the company obtained an **Incumbent Worker Training** grant for \$27,998 to train nine employees, and PCED staff members have performed property searches using the PCED **Real Estate Database** and subscription databases to provide available expansion opportunities.

Taking advantage of Florida's **Qualified Target Industry (QTI) program** will help the company offset the costs associated with its new expansion and keep these high-wage, high-skill jobs in Pinellas County. In partnership with the **Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED)**, **Enterprise Florida**, the city of **Largo**, and Pinellas County, 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. "We worked with Micro Star to find the best opportunities to aid in its growth," explains Danielle Ruiz, Business Development Manager with PCED. "The QTI program is one of Florida's best incentives for retention. Because the tax refunds are directly tied to job creation, both the receiving company and partnering communities benefit from its use."

With its expanded facilities and added jobs, Micro Star Innovations is ready to launch into the next phase of its life. Says Frank Semcer Sr., CEO and Chairman of the Board for the Micro Stamping Group of Companies, "This is an exciting time for Micro Star. Not only are we celebrating longevity, we're also preparing for the future. We're looking forward to another 64 years of good business here in Pinellas!"

Learn more about Micro Star Innovations at www.microstarinnovations.com.

Pinellas County Economic Development can help your business succeed. Learn how at www.PCED.org, or call (727) 464-7332.

