

Department of Workforce Development
Secretary's Office
201 East Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707-7946
Telephone: (608) 266-3131
Fax: (608) 266-1784
Email: sec@dwd.wisconsin.gov



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Jim Doyle, Governor
Roberta Gassman, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

CONTACT: John Dipko, Communications Director, 608-266-6753

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

Secretary Gassman Announces \$525,000 Industry Partnership Funding for Northeast Wisconsin Marine Manufacturing

\$500,000 set aside for training as part of expected U.S. Navy contract with Marinette Marine

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today announced Wisconsin Industry Partnership grants totaling \$525,000 to help meet future workforce training needs for Northeast Wisconsin's marine manufacturing industry.

"The grants I am announcing today continue Governor Doyle's commitment to strengthen regional industry partnerships in key industries, build job skills, and grow the Northeast region's economy," Secretary Gassman said. "The Governor has been a strong advocate of the marine manufacturing industry and is committed to investments to further strengthen this critical sector."

The grants are part of Governor Doyle's \$6 million Industry Partnership program. Industry Partnerships represent an innovative approach to training that involves area employers, labor unions, workforce development agencies, economic development agencies, technical colleges, K-12 schools, and University of Wisconsin institutions.

A grant for \$500,000 will be made available to DWD's regional partner, the Bay Area Workforce Development Board, to train new and existing Marinette Marine workers in areas such as electrical, pipefitting and steel, following the expected award of a major contract by the U.S. Navy to build Littoral combat ships. The expected contract will result in more than 2,000 jobs at the company's northeast Wisconsin location, including 1,000 new jobs. The award followed a \$49 million business incentive package that Governor Doyle made available to help Marinette Marine compete for the contract.

"The opportunity to build additional Littoral combat ships at Marinette Marine over the coming decade and beyond will build upon the high standards of our skilled workforce that northeast Wisconsin is famous for," said James Golembeski, Executive Director of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board Inc. "This grant will assist our workers, present and future, to keep up with cutting edge technology and the skills required to uphold our proud legacy."

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College will serve as another training partner in the grant activities. In addition, DWD will also provide assessment, job placement, boilermaker apprenticeship development, and career information services for in-kind services valued up to \$220,000, representing a total investment of \$720,000.

A second Industry Partnership grant totaling \$25,000 will allow the North Coast Marine Manufacturing Alliance to organize activities focused on training, brand development, the sharing of best practices and other activities to support the marine manufacturing industry. The Alliance is comprised of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, University of Wisconsin-Marquette, economic development and labor organizations, as well as seven regional marine manufacturers – Ace Marine, Bay Shipbuilding, Burger Boats, Cruiser Yachts, Marinette Marine, Marquis Yachts and Palmer Johnson. The manufacturers collectively employ some 2,300 workers. Wisconsin currently has 32 shipbuilding, yacht and boat companies that employ approximately 6,600 employees.