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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, October 1, 2013

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## **Lt. Governor Kleefisch, DWD Secretary Newson Highlight Manufacturing, Reinforce the Importance of Industry Sector to Wisconsin's Economy**

*Visit to TLX Technologies kicks off Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin as proclaimed by Governor Walker*

PEWAUKEE – During visit today to TLX Technologies, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson emphasized the importance of manufacturing to Wisconsin's economy. They also urged individuals to consider the industry sector as a challenging and rewarding career pathway.

"Wisconsin manufacturers have added thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs under Governor Walker's leadership, creating career opportunities for working families around Wisconsin," said Lt. Governor Kleefisch. "I encourage students and those already in the workforce to consider a career in manufacturing. Today's manufacturers require not only welders and machinists, but also IT professionals, accountants, and workers in many other occupations that support Wisconsin's economy."

Governor Walker has proclaimed October Manufacturing Month in Wisconsin. During the month, he will join Lt. Governor Kleefisch, members of the Governor's Cabinet, officials from Wisconsin's technical colleges, K – 12 education, industry organizations and businesses to highlight manufacturing during various events.

Today, Lt. Governor Kleefisch and Secretary Newson joined TLX representatives and local officials for an Open House and ceremonial ribbon-cutting at the company's Pewaukee facility.

Since January 2011, TLX Technologies has grown from 12 to 33 employees. TLX also moved from an 8,000 square-foot facility to 17,000 square feet in late 2012 to accommodate the significant growth in sales the company has seen in recent years, including increased exports through assistance from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Additionally, representatives from TLX joined Governor Walker on his recent trade mission to China.

"Manufacturing contributes nearly \$50 billion to Wisconsin's economy and employs nearly 450,000 people," Secretary Newson said. "Considering the average wage for a manufacturing worker in Wisconsin is \$52,000, or \$11,000 more than the average wage for all Wisconsin workers, I join the Lieutenant Governor in urging anyone who's looking for a new or different career path to look at manufacturing."

Governor Walker has made workforce development a top priority of his administration. In the 2013 – 2015 biennial budget, the Governor included more than \$100 million in new resources for workforce development, including funds for DWD, the Department of Public Instruction, the Wisconsin Technical College System, and the University of Wisconsin. The funds will support a number of initiatives, including Wisconsin Fast Forward, which allots \$15 million to fund employer-led worker training grants for skilled occupations.

For more information: <http://www.wimanufacturingmonth.org>