



MINNESOTA WIRE

Press Release
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Life Saving Connections

Minnesota Wire Hosts Defense Manufacturing Focus Group

St. Paul, Minnesota: 12/17/08 – Minnesota Wire hosted an executive level focus group on Wednesday to augment *Enterprise Minnesota's* statewide survey on manufacturing. The group was comprised primarily of leadership from defense related manufacturing firms, all of whom are members of the *Defense Alliance of Minnesota*, the state's defense and homeland security network which has its roots at Minnesota Wire. Also present was Minnesota State Senator Kathy Saltzman (D-56), Vice Chair of the state's Business, Industry and Jobs Committee. *Enterprise Minnesota* routinely collaborates with the *Defense Alliance* on national and regional issues relevant to manufacturing and the related jobs base.

The defense manufacturers gathering was one of several focus groups to support the extensive survey that *Enterprise Minnesota* is conducting during December 2008 and January 2009. This first annual survey went out to approximately 600 Minnesota-based manufacturers representing a cross-section of size, business type and geographic location. A comprehensive book will be published in 2009 to provide results for a broad audience. The findings of this particular survey will receive national exposure to key business thought leaders and media, according to *Enterprise Minnesota's* President & CEO, Bob Kill.

Participants in the defense industry focus group reviewed early survey findings, and discussed manufacturing issues including: the fiscal environment, workforce demographics (now and into the future), tax burdens and incentives, regulatory issues, and the myriad other challenges and opportunities that companies face in the marketplace, and in the region. The insights gained from this and several other industry-specific groups will contribute ideas, anecdotes and data to the survey results state-wide.

Minnesota Wire is a vertically integrated, custom manufacturing and development house for wire, cable and interconnect assemblies to the Medical, Defense, Instrumentation and Telecommunications industries. The company is a market and R&D leader in: electrical signal integrity; mitigating triboelectric effects; radio-translucent wire; and innovative connections for wearable electronics, patient monitoring systems and leading-edge medical devices.

The 30,000 square foot headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota boasts a full R&D and test and measurement center, an Electromagnetic Capabilities (EMC) chamber for electronic pre-compliance testing and a "wet lab" for its nanotechnology applications. Another high-volume, 58,000 square foot focused-cell, lean production facility is located in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. MWCC is ISO 9001: 2000 certified, ISO 13485: 2003 compliant, ROHS compliant, and is a MIL-STD and IPC-620 certified harness manufacturer.