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## PRESS RELEASE

### Manufacturing Institute, Industrial Maintenance Training Center, PMMI Team Up for Pennsylvania's Workforce in 'Hybrid' Manufacturing Technology

**Reading, PA, October 18, 2012** – The Manufacturing Institute announced a partnership with the Industrial Maintenance Training Center (IMTC) of Pennsylvania and PMMI, the industry-leading trade organization representing the packaging and processing supply chain, to support training leading to jobs in high-performance “hybrid” production shops.

Through this partnership, 10 community colleges and technical schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will align their programs to PMMI's industry certificates in mechatronics, a key skill set for modern “hybrid” manufacturing processes.

Certification assessments will initially be offered at Reading Area Community College in Reading and the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center in Lancaster. The Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, the North Montco Technical Career Center in Lansdale, the Precision Manufacturing Institute in Meadville, the Central PA Institute of Science and Technology in State College, and the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute in the Lehigh Valley are also building capacity to offer the certification assessments.

Support from the Manufacturing Institute has led to more than 50 certificates issued by PMMI in the last several weeks alone, and ultimately, more than 500 students are projected to earn PMMI certificates across the IMTC consortium in the next two years. This pilot partnership will be replicated across the country.

Support from The Manufacturing Institute is made possible by a grant from Alcoa Foundation, which awarded \$200,000 to the Institute to build capacity of community colleges to issue industry-recognized certifications in areas where Alcoa has operations. Alcoa North America Rolled Products in Lancaster, Pa., is also a partner in the initiative.

“Alcoa has a strong history of community involvement,” said Jennifer McNelly, president of The Manufacturing Institute. “What this partnership shows is how much can be accomplished when the company joins with other Pennsylvania manufacturers of all sizes on a solution that impacts the whole industry.”

“Our partnership with Alcoa and NAM will allow the Industrial Maintenance Training Center of Pennsylvania to move closer to its goals of developing a coordinated approach to training in industrial maintenance and mechatronics across the Commonwealth to the benefit of all manufacturers” commented Keith Campbell, director of the Center.

“PMMI has made a long-term commitment to working with schools, industry as well as allied associations and organizations to strengthen the manufacturing workforce,” said Maria Ferrante, vice president, education and workforce development, PMMI. “We are proud to be involved in this partnership, and we look forward to rolling it out across North America. We know from our members

that Manufacturers across the country will benefit from hiring skilled workers who have earned the PMMI credential.”

The PMMI Mechatronics Certificate program is part of the NAM-Endorsed Manufacturing Skills Certification System, a series of stackable credentials that meet the skill needs of manufacturers in high-demand occupations. This partnership will contribute toward the Institute’s goal of issuing 500,000 manufacturing certifications by 2016. PMMI’s skill standards for mechatronics have been included in the Competency Model Clearinghouse of the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) since 2009.

Speaking on behalf of the Governor's Manufacturing Advisory Council (GMAC), Heather Chandler, President of Sealstrip Corporation stated "skill certificates that support high tech manufacturing career pathways, such as the mechatronics effort developed at the Institute, were a key recommendation of the Council's recent report. The Council will continue efforts to highlight and partner with national and regional efforts to grow high skill careers across the commonwealth which will help fill the skills gap in these high wage jobs." The GMAC is a public private partnership with Team PA Foundation and the Corbett Administration to focus on growing the manufacturing sector in Pennsylvania (report can be found at [www.teampa.com](http://www.teampa.com)).

Hybrid industrial maintenance is a growing subset of manufacturing. Historically, technical training has focused on either continuous “process” manufacturing (such as production of fluids), or “discrete” manufacturing characterized by short production cycles. Hybrid manufacturing, by contrast, requires

advanced understanding of mechatronics (combining electrical and mechanical skills), as well as pneumatics and multi-axis motion control.

Industrial maintenance jobs are in high demand in Pennsylvania, with starting wages greater than \$33,000 and average wages of over \$47,000 annually.

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### **About The Manufacturing Institute**

The Manufacturing Institute (the Institute) is the 501 (c) 3 affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers. As a non-partisan organization, the Institute is committed to delivering leading-edge information and services to the nation's manufacturers. The Institute is the authority for U.S. manufacturing on the attraction, qualification, and development of world-class talent. Visit [www.themanufacturinginstitute.org](http://www.themanufacturinginstitute.org).

### **About PMMI**

*[PMMI](http://PMMI.org) is a trade association of more than 600 member companies that manufacture packaging, processing and related converting machinery in the United States, Canada or Mexico; machinery components and packaging containers and materials. PMMI's vision is to be the leading global resource for the packaging and processing supply chain, and its mission is to improve and promote members' abilities to meet the needs of their customers.*

*PMMI organizes the [PACK EXPO](http://PACK EXPO) trade shows: PACK EXPO International, PACK EXPO Las Vegas, EXPO PACK México, and EXPO PACK Guadalajara ,connecting participants in the packaging and processing supply chain with their customers around the world. Coming Up: PACK EXPO International at McCormick Place in Chicago, Oct. 28–31, 2012; EXPO PACK Guadalajara at Expo Guadalajara, February 27 - March 1; EXPO PACK México 2013 at Centro Banamex, Mexico City, June 18-21.*

*Learn more about PMMI and the PACK EXPO trade shows at [PMMI.org](http://PMMI.org) and [Packexpo.com](http://Packexpo.com).*

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