

## **SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS HELPS MANUFACTURER GROW IN CHESHIRE**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy's signature small business assistance program, Small Business Express (EXP), is helping Marion Manufacturing Company, Inc., a leader in progressive stamping and precision metal components, grow in Cheshire.

"Connecticut must support its businesses and Small Business Express is one of the first programs we launched to do that," said Governor Malloy. "Small businesses are the engine of our economy and their success is essential to our efforts to grow jobs. The program has no doubt been an effective tool in supporting the state's smaller companies and strengthening and diversifying our economy."

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), which administers EXP, provided Marion Manufacturing Company with a \$225,000 loan for new machinery and equipment for its facility at 1675 Reinhard Road.

"For more than a half a century Marion Manufacturing Company has been a leader in progressive metal stamping, and this new equipment will help maintain our edge in this highly competitive industry," said Douglas Johnson, president of Marion Manufacturing. "Our partnership with the state and the EXP program made this project possible and allowed the company to focus its resources on future growth."

Marion Manufacturing Company forms wire and stamps metal products for the surgical device components, telecommunications, wind and solar, military, automotive and aerospace industries. The company has 23 employees and plans to add two more as part of this project.

"Connecticut is supporting its small, local businesses through EXP. It's an innovative program that was created specifically to help the diverse home-grown businesses that are in our communities and help our neighborhoods to thrive economically," said Catherine Smith, commissioner of DECD.

Established in 2011, EXP helps Connecticut companies with fewer than 100 employees hire more employees and fund capital investments with low-interest loans and matching grants. To date, 1,690 companies have qualified for more than \$267 million in grants and loans. Those businesses are expected to retain 18,687 jobs and create 6,805 jobs.

For more information on EXP or to apply for the program, [visit the Small Business Express Program webpage](#) or contact Michelle Peters at DECD at 860-270-8052 or by email at [Michelle.Peters@ct.gov](mailto:Michelle.Peters@ct.gov).

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