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More Productive Than Ever

Atlas Manufacturing boosts business with help from GAP funds

In the last six months, business has been booming for Atlas Manufacturing. "We've never been busier in the history of Atlas," says John Peterson, President of the Minneapolis-based precision sheet metal manufacturer.

Atlas hosted Congressman Keith Ellison last week to talk about how turning to lean process improvement during the recession has helped the company become more efficient and add capacity.

Peterson and Co-President Mark Engel purchased Atlas in 2002 and grew a steady base of products that included computer enclosures, retail displays, and industrial products. The company's work can be seen in Best Buy stores or the Sephora store at the Mall of America.

In 2008, Peterson and Engel felt the economy slip. Sales decreased and customers began asking for shorter lead times. The co-presidents decided that Atlas needed to invest in improving its processes to accommodate these



Congressman Keith Ellison tours Atlas Manufacturing in Minneapolis.

Industry News

Rubin Leaving MHTA:

Kate Rubin, president and CEO of the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA), will be leaving her position after nearly nine years to accept a position as vice president of social responsibility for UnitedHealth Group and executive director of the United Health Foundation. Rubin has led MHTA since December 2001. MHTA's Chief Operations Officer, MaryFrances Schurb, will lead the association on an interim basis.

Arctic Cat Announces Plans for Engine

Manufacturing: Arctic Cat Inc. announced that it has entered into an agreement to transition its snowmobile engine manufacturing from Suzuki Motor Corporation. Arctic Cat will begin manufacturing some of its own snowmobile engines in St. Cloud, Minn., after the 2014 model year. Currently, Suzuki supplies all engines for Arctic Cat's