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Contact: Dawn Nielsen
Marketing & Public Relations Specialist
City of Bristol, Connecticut
111 North Main Street
Bristol, CT 06010

Email: DawnNielsen@BristolCT.gov

Phone: 860-584-6190

City of Bristol Grant Program Helps Local Manufacturer Grow Business

(Bristol, CT, April 4, 2022) – Local company Precision Express Manufacturing (PEM) was the beneficiary of a grant from the City of Bristol which made a significant difference in the company's capability to grow its high-quality precision parts business and be more competitive.

The City of Bristol created the Manufacturing Technical Assistance Grant Program to help manufacturers gain access to consultative services in order to improve their companies, their operations, and their competitiveness in the marketplace. Grant funding from the City for Bristol-based manufacturers covers up to 50% of their consulting expenses up to a maximum of \$10,000.

PEM contracted with manufacturing consulting firm CONNSTEP to help their company become certified to the quality management standard known as ISO 9001:2015. This industry certification is increasingly becoming a requirement by customers to ensure quality measures are in place for products.

According to Bena Agastra of PEM, "Thanks to the City of Bristol and their grant program for local manufacturers, we were able to achieve ISO certification for our company. And we couldn't have done it without the guidance and assistance from CONNSTEP. The certification to the standard supports our goal of business growth, and gives our customers a reason to believe in us."

Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano added, "This is another example of the City of Bristol's commitment to companies, to help them grow and sustain their businesses, to keep people employed, and to preserve and attract more businesses to our city."

Grant Requirements: Bristol manufacturers with eligible NAICS/SIC codes may apply. There is no minimum or maximum company size. Examples of eligible projects include obtaining industry certifications, lean manufacturing, cyber security, and more. Interested firms can call 860-584-6185 to learn more.

About CONNSTEP: A member of the MEP National Network, CONNSTEP is a manufacturing consultancy firm serving small-to-medium sized companies. Our consultants implement advanced business and technical solutions, as well as workforce strategies, that help organizations to grow, improve profitability, and create sustainable competitive advantages.



Photo caption: Precision Express Manufacturing employees raise their ISO quality certification banner flanked by (left) Justin Malley, Bristol Economic & Community Development Executive Director and (right) Bristol Mayor Jeff Caggiano.

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