

Why CAMPS is pursuing alternative energy market opportunities?

One of the primary initiatives of CAMPS is to pursue ***Innovation***. In the quest for innovation, CAMPS members selected the **alternative energy markets** as an emerging sector for future manufacturing opportunities. The initial focus is on **wind power, solar power, and the smart grid.**

There are several underlying reasons for pursuing wind power, solar power, and the smart grid development:

- **Market Potential** – These are high growth markets, supported by government, education, and business to decrease the dependence on fossil fuels (especially foreign oil imports) and increasing concern for the environment and sustainability. During the next twenty years the population of the United States is estimated to grow from 300 million in 2008 to 373 million in 2030. The demand for power is projected to grow proportionally. Additionally, government mandates are in place to increase renewable energy sources from the current levels of Wind Power at 2% and Solar at 1% of total power resources to national averages of 10%. Regionally, over 20 states have mandates of 20% conversion rates to renewable energy sources in the next 10 to 20 years. The market growth is tremendous for those companies that wisely pursue these business opportunities.
- **Manufacturing Capabilities** – Small and medium size manufacturers in Puget Sound have a wide range of capabilities and certifications. Many of these companies are experienced in manufacturing high precision, high quality, and on-time products to support the aerospace, transportation, and marine industries. These companies manufacture items made of traditional metals, advanced materials, complex assemblies, and software/programmable components. These manufacturers also have the latest technologies on their production floors which include Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) equipment, Waterjet technologies, laser technology, robotics, electron beam welding, and many other advanced manufacturing processes. CAMPS is developing a capabilities matching program to enable several manufacturing companies, each with specific capabilities, to jointly pursue business opportunities.
- **Workforce Development** – Nationally there is a need for more skilled workers to meet the demands of rapidly changing skill requirements and an aging industrial trade's workforce, with 40% to 60% eligible for retirement in the next five to ten years. CAMPS is developing a Structured On-the-Job Training (SOJT) program to take the training to the shop floor, customized to the company needs, and adaptable to 21st Century Manufacturing processes. Many of these skills will be transferable and supporting multiple sectors.

One of the regional benefits for the CAMPS members will be to pursue these new markets that will help them diversify their customer base, while balancing the impacts of the cyclical trends associated with the aerospace, transportation, and marine sectors. The long term goal is to have a very strong manufacturing base, capable of being highly capable and competitive in a variety of business sectors.

For more information how to learn more about CAMPS, contact:

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