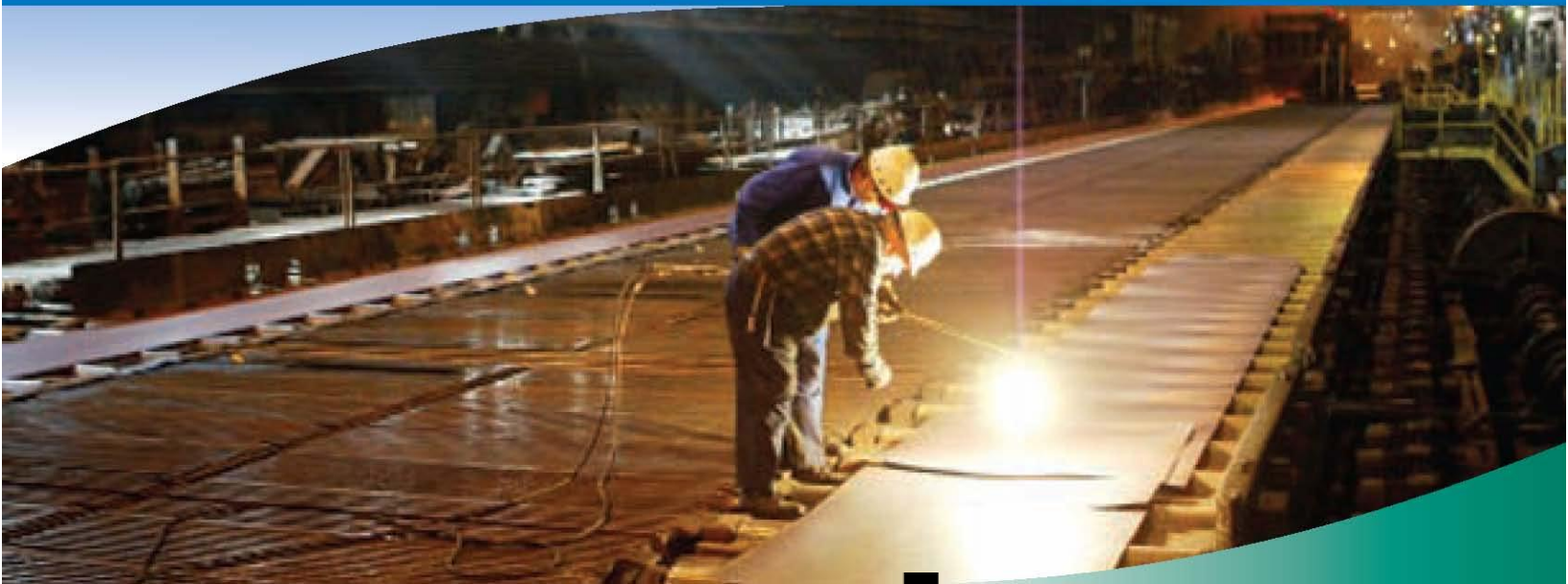


METALS MANUFACTURING IN THE PORTLAND METRO REGION



INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

Challenge

A workforce assessment for the Portland area's metals industry by Worksystems, Inc. found a need for skilled and experienced workers. Among the occupations most difficult to fill were welder, fabricator, machinist, and computer numeric control (CNC) operator. Although the industry provides high-wage job opportunities, it has a poor image in schools and colleges and is considered to be an "old-economy" rather than high-tech industry. While the industry does have its roots in the old economy, it has changed considerably over time, Industry leaders say they hope to meet future workforce needs by developing and implementing training in high-demand occupations and improving awareness of job opportunities.

Response

Manufacturers in Portland Metro region recognize they need a competitive advantage to succeed in today's technology-driven global economy. Worksystems, Inc., Region 2 WorkSource partners and Manufacturing 21 have partnered to create a Metals Manufacturing Skills Panel to address the training needs of the metals industry in our region. Additionally, Worksystems and WorkSource Portland Metro have collaborated to create a Regional Metals Team to directly address the needs of the Portland area's metals manufacturers.

How Can We Help

Worksystems, Inc. (WSI) invests in the skills of regional workers and the competitiveness of regional businesses.

Businesses benefit from:

- Direct engagement in local public workforce investments
- Training grants that enhance the skills of workers
- Investments in skill training for thousands of regional job seekers
- Partnerships with economic developers on workforce issues related to business retention and expansion
- A workforce development system that understands industry needs and connects businesses with qualified job seekers

To learn more about what Worksystems can do for your business call (503) 478-7300 or visit a Worksource Portland Metro Center.

METALS MANUFACTURING IN THE PORTLAND METRO REGION

Worksystems, Inc. – Investing to meet the needs of the Metals Manufacturing Industry



ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE

Addressing the Challenge

- Worksystems, Inc. and Manufacturing 21 collaborated to convene a Metal Industry Skill Panel to address current training needs.
- \$315,000 invested in training pipeline workers to support industry growth in 2009-2010 including customized Vocational English as a Second Language curriculum for the industry.
- \$240,000 invested directly in support of industry businesses to provide On-the-Job Training to new workers in 2009-2010.
- \$313,186 invested in training incumbent workers 2008-2010.
- An additional \$315,000 grant for the Department of Defense was secured through efforts by Manufacturing 21 and is being administered by Worksystems, Inc. to fund four training projects, each supporting a consortium of defense contractors, in Oregon and SW Washington.

Over 575 incumbent workers have been trained specifically for the metals industry in 2008-2010. Trainings have included: OSHA, welding, blueprint reading, leadership, computer skills, non-destructive testing among other

Next Steps and Ongoing Initiatives

Metals manufacturing was again identified as a Priority Industry for local workforce investment. New training dollars are being awarded competitively to metals manufacturing companies to meet industry workforce training needs in 2010-2011. Additional 2010-2011 funding supports industry specific classroom and On-the-Job Training for new workers. The Metals Industry Skill Panel continues to identify and address industry workforce issues.

Industry Partners

- Vigor Industrial
- Leupold & Stevens
- Sheet Metal 16
- Imperial Mfg.
- Leatherman
- ESCO
- Schnitzer Steel
- Connor Mfg.
- Boeing
- PCC Structurals, Inc.
- Manufacturing21
- Northwest High Performance Consortium