



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association Awarded Workforce Florida Grant
Quick Response Training Grant to fund nearly 170 jobs and training for more than 260

Fort Myers, FL (July 19, 2010) - The Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association (SRMA) has received a \$383,000 grant to be distributed to eight Southwest Florida manufacturers and SRMA members. The grant awarded by Workforce Florida Inc. is for the Quick Response Training Program (QRT) which provides grant funding for customized training for new or expanding businesses. This project not only benefits Florida manufacturing companies seeking to bolster their workforce, but it also positions Floridians to take advantage of in-demand, high-wage jobs. The QRT Grant will be for the creation of 168 new, full-time permanent jobs and the skills upgrade training for 261 existing employees.

"The SRMA strives to bring our members information and opportunities that will help them continue to grow their business in Southwest Florida," says Chet Sadler, Executive Director of SRMA. "Having worked with Workforce Florida in the past, we were able to notify our members of this incredible grant opportunity, and guide them through the application process. The QRT grant money will play a critical role in continuing to create high paying jobs in Southwest Florida."

The eight companies which completed an extensive application and review process to qualify for the grant are; Storm Smart, Air Technology, Forestry Resources, Loos & Company, JRL Ventures/Marine Concepts, Pall Corporation, Pelican Wire, and Structured Medical. Over 50 customized training courses have been planned by the eight participating companies. Training will begin immediately and continue under the terms of the grant for two years. Edison State College will act as the fiscal agent overseeing the requirements of the grant and the distribution of funds.

Through this employer-driven program, Florida is able to effectively retain and attract businesses creating new high-quality jobs. Workforce Florida Inc. administers the program. Created in 1993 by Florida Statute 288.047 (3), Quick Response has provided customized training for over 100,608 employees for more than 303 businesses and industries throughout the state. Companies that have used these grants say, "Training gave new employees the skills and experience to function as efficient and effective members of the production staff" and "Without the grant it would have been impossible to build and train a team of unskilled workers into a team of skilled productive associates."

About Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association

SRMA is a professional organization representing SW Regional companies engaged in manufacturing operations producing products for local, national, and international markets. The purpose of the Association is to work together to encourage the economic development of Southwest Florida through manufacturing and to act as a forum for the expression, exchange of ideas and information among its members. Learn more about the SRMA by visiting their website www.srma.net, see what great things they have to offer. Contact Chet Sadler, the Executive Director of the association at 239-634-4295.

About Workforce Florida Inc.

Workforce Florida Inc. is the statewide workforce investment board led by business and government leaders and charged with policy-setting and oversight of Florida's workforce system, which includes the Agency for Workforce Innovation and 24 Regional Workforce Boards. Its mission is to develop strategies that help Floridians enter, remain and advance in the workforce while supporting economic development priorities and strengthening the state's business climate. Florida's workforce system provided services including job search, referral and placement assistance as well as training to more than 1.7 million job seekers and employers last year. Learn more about Florida's workforce resources and solutions at www.EmployFlorida.com.

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