

## MAINE MEP ASSISTS GUITAR MANUFACTURER THROUGH LARGE GROWTH PHASES

**ABOUT BOURGEOIS GUITARS.** Bourgeois Guitars manufactures high-end acoustic guitars in Lewiston, Maine. In business since 1974, this company has grown based on the work of Dana Bourgeois and his team of Luthiers. Played by many legendary musicians, Bourgeois Guitars are shipped worldwide. The company produces an average of 400 guitars per year.

**THE CHALLENGE.** Bourgeois Guitars has grown significantly, quadrupling the number of staff from 8 to 32 employees and expanding manufacturing space. This rapid growth caused a need for assistance in all areas of the business. Robotics, including a PLEK fret dressing machine and other major process improvements, are underway with funding and implementation assistance by Maine MEP, part of the MEP National Network™.

**MEP CENTER'S ROLE.** Maine MEP assisted in obtaining over \$800,000 in funding to aid the transition in numerous manufacturing sub-processes. In addition to the funding, Maine MEP has also supported Bourgeois Guitars with plant layout and most recently engaged with our partners at the Advanced Manufacturing Center to design and develop an improved finishing cart with the goal of increasing cart capacity by two guitars; a 25% increase.

"Maine MEP has been instrumental in facilitating the growth and durability of Bourgeois Guitars since their initial involvement with the organization in 2016. Since his departure from the company, John Karp has continued his stewardship of Bourgeois Guitars, opening the doors to numerous funding, process improvement and educational opportunities up to, and including, our partnership with Eastman Music. John and MMEP's ongoing involvement with the Brand have helped to ensure Bourgeois Guitar's long-term success and viability in a rapidly changing market and economic ecosystem."

-Christopher Fleming, President

## RESULTS



MEP assisted in obtaining over **\$800,000** in key funding to accomplish multiple strategic objectives



**24** jobs added, 8 jobs retained (4X employment to support increased sales and production)



Lean advances plus automated fretboard finishing robot created cost savings

## CONTACT US



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