

OKLAHOMA SUCCESS STORY

COMPANY TRANSFORMS OPERATIONS THROUGH WORKFORCE EFFORTS, EQUIPMENT UPDGRADES

ABOUT CENTEK, INC. Centek, established about 15 years ago, designs and manufactures a range of revolutionary centralizers and stop collars used in the oil and gas industry. The equipment helps ease casings down through the wellbore and provides appropriate standoff centralization. The company operates from a main factory in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and currently employs about 200.

THE CHALLENGE. Plant Manager Steve Erdley oversees a well-regarded operation, but he knew his factory would benefit from modernized equipment and employee training that met the specific requirements of his production. For advice, Eardley turned to Anna Paulk, a manufacturing extension agent with the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, part of the MEP National Network™. The Manufacturing Alliance has worked with Centek on numerous projects - like building a holistic culture of continuous improvement - and Paulk is considered a trusted advisor.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Paulk met with Erdley and other company leaders. The group reviewed Centek's operational details and created a unqiue, customized training program related to MIG (metal inert gas) welding activities. Appropriate training ensured the welding process was carried out accurately, efficiently, while meeting Centek's elevated standards. The effort, which includes ongoing continuous improvement programs, is also minimizing downtime and maximizing productivity. Additionally, Paulk was able to secure a state matching grant specifically designed to promote high-impact capital investments, especially those used to buy advanced manufacturing equipment. The workforce efforts are helping boost Centek's market share in the energy industry. Likewise, work in quality certifications and development of internal experts are expanding business opportunities.

"The Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance is a vital resource to small and medium-sized manufacturers in our state. Thanks to our partnership, we will continue as a successful and profitable company that provides highwage, high-tech careers to our workforce."

-Steve Erdley, Plant Manager

RESULTS



36 retained jobs



9 new high-wage jobs



\$900,000 in retained sales



\$160,000 in capital investment in modern equipment



\$100,000 in new annual sales

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