

# PRECISION PITTSBURGH

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Event proceeds support the Pittsburgh Chapter  
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE

Dear Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA Members,

In today's fast-paced industrial world, staying competitive demands continuous learning, collaboration, and access to cutting-edge solutions. That's why we are proud to celebrate the success of the Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA's first-ever Advanced Manufacturing Expo, held this past March.



The event welcomed over 400 attendees from across the region, bringing manufacturers, technology experts, and service providers together under one roof. Unlike large national trade shows, the Expo was designed to meet manufacturers where they are—providing real-world solutions, hands-on demonstrations, insightful breakout sessions, and direct access to expertise without the need for extensive travel.

I am especially grateful to our Associate Members, **NEFF Automation**, **Leading Marks**, and **Catalyst Connection** for their partnership in bringing this event to Pittsburgh and their commitment to strengthening our local manufacturing community.

At the heart of it all, our chapter's commitment remains clear: to support precision manufacturers by connecting them with the expertise, technology, and partnerships they need to thrive. Events like the Advanced Manufacturing Expo reinforce the power of staying local, collaborating with regional leaders, and driving continuous improvement throughout our industry.

Thank you to all the members, exhibitors, and partners who helped make this event an overwhelming success. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to bring valuable opportunities directly to our members and the broader manufacturing community.

Sincerely,

Michel Conklin  
Chapter Executive, Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA



Watch NEFF's  
Video Recap

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

**Kevin Hartford, Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA Board President**

If you've been an NTMA member for a number of years and have read my articles, you may recall that I have consistently praised our Chapter Executive, Michel Conklin, her dedicated staff, and our exceptional board. I have stated multiple times that our board is the best I've ever been a part of, largely due to the involvement and leadership of our larger Precision Manufacturers. No member company better exemplifies this than **Hamill Manufacturing Company**—a company founded in 1952 that has made substantial contributions to the Department of Defense and is now 100% Employee Owned.

When I first joined the Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA's Board in 2006, I was immediately impressed with Jeff Kelly, Hamill's CEO at the time. His unwavering commitment to the precision manufacturing industry stood out. I remember an NTMA National Conference in New Orleans where Jeff challenged the Trustees to match his six-figure contribution towards the future of the NTMA.

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It was Jeff's visionary leadership that brought forth BotsIQ, where he empowered Hamill employees Phyllis Miller and Glenn Skena to take charge. Under their stewardship, the program flourished, expanding from 10 high schools to over 70 within a few years, earning national recognition. Today, our BotsIQ program stays strong, thanks to Michel and her team's continued support.



Hamill has also played a crucial role in the success of our Apprenticeship Program, keeping a registered program for 59 years. To date, Hamill has trained over 70 apprentices in the Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA's related instruction program with an impressive 70% of their machinists achieving journeyman status. Hamill currently has 9 more employee owners enrolled in the Program and remains an active member of the Apprentice Steering Committee.

Now, almost 20 years into my tenure on the Board, Hamill continues to be a driving force for the NTMA. John Dalrymple, Hamill's current President, has become an invaluable resource and one of my most trusted confidants. From Jeff to John, Hamill has consistently emphasized the importance of "feeding the pipeline." This phrase became Jeff's slogan during his term as NTMA National Chairman in 2007, as he traveled across the country, at his own expense, championing the necessity of workforce development.

And we have indeed fed the pipeline. Today, our Apprenticeship Program has over 150 apprentices, and we will celebrate another graduating class in June.

As we persist in our efforts to nurture this pipeline, let us not forget the visionary leaders who have paved the way for our success. Hamill has been an irreplaceable leader in that journey.



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## MEET A MEMBER: RE:BUILD MANUFACTURING

The Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA is proud to welcome its newest NTMA member company, **Re:Build Manufacturing**.

Re:Build Manufacturing launched operations in New Kensington, PA, just one year ago with a bold vision: to breathe new life into the former Alcoa Works site and spark economic renewal in a historically deindustrialized community. Their state-of-the-art, 175,000-square-foot advanced manufacturing center is the flagship facility in the Re:Build national network.



Today, Re:Build New Kensington employs over 30 skilled professionals, with plans to grow their team by an additional 270 in the next two years. They specialize in precision machining, welding, and complex assemblies and are proud to be AS9100 certified, ITAR registered, and NIST 800-171 compliant.

Re:Build's expertise spans R&D and full-scale production, serving five critical markets: Aerospace & Defense; Energy Generation & Production; Vehicle & Equipment Electrification; Robotics & Intelligent Automation; and Medical Technology. Re:Build New Kensington produces components ranging from simple parts to highly complex assemblies using CNC lathes, 3- to 5-axis mills, and other precision equipment. They work across various materials—from composites to superalloys—with a sharp focus on accuracy, consistency, and delivery performance.

Re:Build is committed to continuous improvement and strategic investment in the latest technologies. The result is a manufacturing partner built for speed, scale, and precision, delivering complex parts with confidence and helping Their customers conquer their unique challenges.

### **Company Location:**

12th Street Building 225  
New Kensington, PA 15068

### **Contact Information:**

<https://rebuildmanufacturing.com/newkensington/>

## BEYOND THE BATTLE: A LOOK BACK AT THE BOTS IQ

### Todd Landree, Robotics Program Coordinator, BotsIQ

Hello Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA—and thank you for another great season of BotsIQ!

What a wild and unforgettable season it has been! The 2024–2025 BotsIQ Combat Robotics Finals wrapped up with a bang—literally and figuratively—at PennWest California on April 11th and 12th. This year’s event was nothing short of explosive, with sparks flying, crowds cheering, and robots clashing in the ultimate test of design, skill, and teamwork.

We were thrilled to welcome over 450 students each day from high schools and vocational schools across the region. These students brought their best bots, sharpest strategies, and months of hands-on learning to the arena floor. The energy was electric as teams prepped their bots, made last-minute adjustments, and celebrated each other’s hard work.

The cage battles were intense—so intense, in fact, that the arena itself took a beating. We’ll be replacing a ceiling panel (bent), a wall panel (gouged), and three floor panels (chipped and scarred). When the venue ends up needing

repairs, you know it was a truly unforgettable competition!

At the top of the bracket, Bedford High School dominated the field with their hard-hitting bot, “Ronald Wreckin,” ultimately defeating Deer Lakes and their relentless bot “Samuel Tristani” in a thrilling finals showdown. These incredible students weren’t working alone—Bedford’s success was supported by their industry advisor, **Kennametal**, who offered mentorship and insight throughout the design and build

process. Deer Lakes, too, had a strong industry partnership with **Oberg Industries**, whose support helped guide the team through the engineering and fabrication challenges of the season.



**Pictured: Bedford High School, Ronald Wreckin', 2025 First Place Competition Winner**



## 2024–2025 SEASON

But the BotsIQ program is about more than what happens inside the cage. Our teams are also evaluated on their documentation, planning, collaboration, and professional development efforts. That's why we award a Grand Champion—a team that excels across the board. This year, that honor went to Hempfield Area High School with their bot, “A Different Animal.” Hempfield stood out not only for their performance in the cage, but also for their meticulous documentation, teamwork, and communication. They were supported by two incredible industry partners: **Composidie, Inc.** and **Product Evaluation Systems**, both of whom helped guide the team's engineering process and expose students to real-world STEM career pathways.

The impact of our industry partners cannot be overstated. Their time, expertise, and mentorship are invaluable—not just to the teams they work with, but to the long-term mission of BotsIQ: preparing the next generation of advanced manufacturing professionals. These connections help turn classroom theory into real-world application, and they make our program one of the most dynamic workforce development initiatives in the region.

As this season comes to a close, we extend a huge thank-you to all the industry advisors, mentors, volunteers, and sponsors who make this possible. Your dedication is helping shape future engineers, technicians, and innovators—and your impact will be felt for years to come.

We're already gearing up for next season! Mark your calendars: the 2025–2026 BotsIQ Finals will return to PennWest California on April 10th and 11th, 2026. We can't wait to see what our students—and their industry mentors—create next. Here's to another season of sparks, smarts, and spectacular teamwork.



**Pictured: Deer Lakes High School, Samuel Tristani, 2025 Second Place Competition Winner**



**Pictured: Hempfield Area High School, A Different Animal, 2025 Grand Champion**

## JV MANUFACTURING WELCOMES APPRENTICES FOR REAL-WORLD LEARNING EXPERIENCE

**Liz Blashock, Apprenticeship Program Manager, Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA**

NTMA Member company, **JV Manufacturing Company**, based in Natrona Heights, is renowned for its expertise in designing and developing high-speed, high-production carbide progressive stamping dies and components across a variety of industries. Recently, the company welcomed apprentices from the NTMA's BotsIQ Training & Education Center for an insightful facility tour.

Leading the visit was Kerry Liti, Tool Room Lead at JV Manufacturing and Year 4 Instructor for NTMA. "I'm currently teaching die design in class, and I thought—what better way to reinforce that learning than by showing real-world examples?" said Kerry. "We produce some truly impressive dies here at JV, and I knew the apprentices would benefit from seeing them up close."

As a journeyman machinist himself, Kerry understands the importance of apprenticeship training in the manufacturing industry. He encourages his class to understand the 'why' behind processes and not just the 'how'. This approach is vital in an industry where innovation and efficiency are key to success.



**Pictured: Year 1 and Year 4 Apprentices from BotsIQ TEC with NTMA Instructors Kerry Liti and Lou Pavsek.**

Instructors like Kerry and companies like JV Manufacturing play a vital role in preparing the next generation of skilled machinists. We are proud to highlight their commitment to education and workforce development, and we're thankful for their continued support of the NTMA Apprenticeship Program.

For more information about the Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA Apprenticeship Program, contact Liz Blashock at [blashock@pghntma.org](mailto:blashock@pghntma.org).



## PENNSYLVANIA STEEL COMPANY SUPPORTS HANDS-ON LEARNING FOR APPRENTICES

Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA Associate Member **Pennsylvania Steel Company, Inc.**—an independent, veteran-owned business with more than 50 years of experience—is helping to shape the future of manufacturing through its generous support of hands-on learning. Known for its wide product selection, exceptional customer service, and reliable overnight delivery, Pennsylvania Steel has long been a trusted name in the industry.

The Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA is proud to recognize and thank Pennsylvania Steel for their recent donation of aluminum and steel materials, which are now being used in our apprenticeship training program. These materials are essential for various hands-on projects that help students develop real-world skills.

"In manufacturing, you can't just read about it—you've gotta get your hands dirty. That's where hands-on learning comes in. You learn by doing, and that's how you really get good at it," says Bruce Thompson, Year 2 Instructor.

In addition to NTMA training projects, apprentices also have the opportunity to complete National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) projects, allowing them to earn industry-recognized credentials.

A big thank you to Pennsylvania Steel Company for investing in the next generation of skilled manufacturers!



To learn more about Pennsylvania Steel Company, visit <https://www.pasteel.com/>.



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# NAVIGATING THE TRADE LANDSCAPE—

## V. Susanne Cook, Shareholder, Dentons Cohen & Grigsby &

Though it may be the preferred approach, it is not always feasible for companies based in the United States to source all of their inputs from domestic US manufacturers. This article provides compliance tips when sourcing input items from outside the United States:

### I. Tariff Framework in Transition

In today's rapidly evolving global trade environment, manufacturers and importers face an increasingly complex tariff challenge that demands diligent planning and strategic adaptation. Recent U.S. measures have fundamentally changed the way tariffs are being determined, moving to a country- or region-specific system, underscoring the importance of correct Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) classification, agile supply chain strategies, and proactive compliance. Consult experienced legal counsel or trade experts for tailored advice specific to your business needs.

### II. Understanding HTSUS Classifications and Country of Origin: Building Blocks of Import

Accurate HTSUS classification and Country of Origin (COO) determinations are a cornerstone of Customs compliance and are key to determining correct duty rates and United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) eligibility. Misclassification can trigger unexpected tariffs (for the correct HTS), penalties, and shipment delays. Equally important is determining the COO, especially in the context of preferential trade agreements, and potential tariff exclusions.

Importantly, COO is not the country of export but is where a product undergoes its last significant manufacturing processor "substantial transformation." Under USMCA meeting the criteria for origination can help secure preferential duty rates. Regularly updating internal classification protocols and maintaining detailed documentation to support classification decisions are essential best practices. Staying informed about regulatory changes and updates in the HTS is also vital for ongoing compliance.

#### Practical Tips:

- Collaborate with trade compliance experts for accurate HTSUS and COO classification, regularly update classification protocols, and maintain robust documentation to support classification decisions.
- Monitor HTSUS regulatory changes and updates closely.

## PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

**Sasha V. Phillips, Counsel, Dentons Cohen & Grigsby**

### III. Shifting Supply Chains to Lessen Tariff Impact

Adapting supply chains can be an effective strategy for manufacturers seeking to lessen the impact of tariffs. If review of domestic availability shows that sourcing U.S. products is not feasible, explore relocating production, assembly, or processing operations from foreign countries with high tariff rates to other countries with more favorable tariffs. For instance, manufacturers might consider importing unfinished goods or in combinations of components to take advantage of lower tariff rates. Identifying alternative suppliers to avoid the most punitive tariffs is another practical example of supply chain adjustments. Finally, implementing contract clauses which help to offset the rising tariff costs should be considered for both, the existing and new supply chains.



**V. Susanne Cook, Shareholder**

#### Tips for Drafting Supplier Contracts:

- Include clear clauses that allocate risks and responsibilities regarding tariff adjustments and regulatory changes, including price escalation clauses allowing adjustments in the event of tariff increases.
- Obtain appropriate representations as to country of origin.
- Engaging external experts or consultants to audit supply chain practices can provide additional assurance of compliance.

A continuous evaluation of the supply chain and rigorous due diligence when sourcing international goods are crucial. This includes verifying supplier information, screening all parties to the supply chain for sanctions, confirming the true origin (COO) and the HTSUS classification of goods, and validating the suppliers' compliance with both domestic and international regulations.



**Sasha V. Phillips, Counsel**

### IV. Identifying and Utilizing Tariff Exclusions and Exceptions

The HTSUS includes various tariff exclusions and exceptions, particularly within Chapter 98, which can offer opportunities for duty savings. For example, Subheading 9801.00.10 allows for duty-free treatment of U.S. goods returned, provided they haven't been advanced in value or improved in condition while abroad. Subheading 9802.00.80 allows for the exclusion of the value of U.S.-origin components from the final value of imported goods when certain conditions are met.

*Continued on page 24*



# ENERGY PRICING EXPLAINED: WHAT GOES INTO

**Jake Thomas, Senior Regional Sales Manager - C&I Sales, IGS Energy**

The energy market can be difficult to understand, and navigating the energy strategies and solutions available to your organization might seem daunting.

When it comes to energy pricing, it's important to start with an understanding of the cost components that influence your energy spend. In this article, **IGS Energy** covers the components — most notable due to recent events, capacity — that influence power and natural gas pricing, offering insights to help you better manage your energy.

## **The cost components of your energy bills**

There are multiple components that comprise an energy bill. Before you can determine a strategy for your business, it's important to understand these components.

### **Electricity**

- **Energy:** This is the main cost component of your bill. Prices are subject to significant fluctuation throughout the day, often in response to natural gas prices.
- **Capacity:** In energy, capacity refers to the cost you pay to ensure there's a sufficient supply of power available on the grid to meet your peak demand at the highest- consumption hours.
- **Other factors:** There are several other components energy suppliers have little to no control over — and comprise 5 to 20 percent of your electricity's overall price. These include things like line loss and ancillary services.

### **Natural Gas**

- **NYMEX:** The market, or NYMEX, is the main component of natural gas cost, comprising 60 to 65 percent of the overall price. Prices change throughout the day (sometimes abruptly) in response to significant events that impact supply and demand for natural gas.
- **Transportation:** This ensures there is enough space on interstate pipelines to provide natural gas on the coldest day of the year. Rates vary by pipeline but, typically, don't change much annually.



## THE COST OF YOUR ENERGY

- **Basis:** This is the price difference between the Henry Hub in Louisiana (a natural gas pipeline that's the official delivery point for futures contracts on the NYMEX) and a given market. If the given market's price is cheaper than the Henry Hub, a credit may apply. These prices are subject to change monthly or even multiple times daily.
- **Other facts:** There are several components that suppliers have no control over, including line loss, balancing and pooling charges, and BTU conversion.



Jake Thomas, IGS Energy

### How capacity affects your power bill

Unlike other forms of energy, electricity must be generated and consumed at the same time. Capacity helps generators understand how much electricity they need to provide to the grid to ensure that electricity always remains available to consumers.

Think of capacity in terms of your local grocery store's parking lot: They've created ample parking spaces to accommodate the busiest shopping days. Capacity provides sufficient generation (or a parking spot) for the hottest day and hour of the summer.

To understand capacity fully, let's review what it includes:

- **Capacity Cost:** The generation price set per kWh by the grid operator's forward capacity market auction.
- **Capacity Tag:** The kW demand used by a facility on the peak hour of the peak day per the grid operator.

Your capacity cost is calculated by your unique tag (the identifier specific to your organization) multiplied by the rate established by the organization that manages your grid.

*Continued on page 25*



# Pittsburgh Robotics **DISCOVERY** **DAY 2025**

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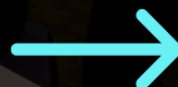


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## CASE STUDY: BUILDING SKILLS AND

### **A hands-on approach to Operational Excellence, from the floor up.**

**True Position Inc.** has been fabricating the parts other shops won't touch for more than 30 years. A family-owned contract manufacturing firm serving the defense, medical, and steel industries, True Position is known for its commitment to high standards, personalized service, and craftsmanship that's stood the test of time across three generations.



Jason Spudic, True Position Inc.

In late 2024, company leadership took a forward-looking step by engaging Templar Global, a Pittsburgh-based operational excellence consultancy, to support their continued growth. The initiative began not in the boardroom, but on the shop floor—with a hands-on 5S training and improvement event.

"We're thriving, but we're also committed to getting better every day," said Jason Spudic, VP Operations of True Position. Firms often hire consultants or trainers to fix something broken,

but this wasn't about that— as a "job shop," we've grown organically, and we knew a 5S event would help us structure that growth. We brought Templar in to help us build higher on a strong foundation."

The collaboration began with a walk through the production environment and a series of structured employee interviews. Templar's team identified several high-leverage opportunities and worked with True Position staff to co-design a practical training program focused on foundational Lean Manufacturing practices.

### **A Practical Approach to Upskilling**

The first phase of work focused on 5S—the Lean toolset for organizing workspaces—and included:

- Classroom instruction on Lean principles
- Hands-on cleanup and reorganization in Raw Materials, WIP, Tooling, and Finished Goods areas
- Real-time improvements to labeling, tooling access, and material flow
- Identification and removal of obsolete or unused materials

## MOMENTUM AT TRUE POSITION INC.

The results were immediate and visible. Tooling and inventory were better organized, access times for tooling and materials were reduced, and the overall environment became easier to navigate and manage.

"You could see the difference immediately," said Jim Shepherd of Templar Global. "But more importantly, the team understood why the changes mattered—and how to sustain them."

### **From 5S to Workforce Development**

The 5S event also became a springboard for deeper conversations about workforce development. Fabricating the parts other shops won't touch demands a skilled "hybrid" machinist—someone who blends hands-on manual experience with high-level CNC capability. Like many in the industry, True Position has found that fully developed machinists with this combination of skills are increasingly rare.

As a result, the company gladly welcomes experienced candidates but has focused most of its energy on growing talent from within.

Templar's interviews revealed an opportunity to formalize development paths for these hybrid roles and strengthen the internal pipeline through a clear, structured roadmap. True Position already leverages proven training resources—including ToolingU's flexible online learning modules—and actively encourages new hires to enroll in apprenticeships through its partnership with New Century Careers.

The Development Roadmap will integrate these resources while offering guidance on how best to use them. It will also inform future training investments, clarify advancement pathways, and—together with the company's commitment to work-life balance—support efforts to hire, develop, and retain a deep bench of skilled machinists.

### **Looking Ahead**

The initial engagement wrapped up with a clear set of next steps: devise additional training modules, deliver shop floor coaching, and tailor performance metrics to ensure sustainability. True Position's team is now equipped with the tools and framework to keep building momentum.

"This was about investing in our people and reinforcing the pride we take in our work," said Spudic. "The response from the team has been great—and we're excited to keep going."



# FIFTEEN YEARS OF WOMEN IN

**Rachael Brown**

Manufacturing Digital

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As WiM celebrates its 15th anniversary, let's look back at some of the group's biggest moments as it inspires, showcases and supports women in the industry.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of Women In Manufacturing (WiM), a US national trade association created to promote, support and unite women who work in the manufacturing sector.

A US national trade association headquartered in Ohio, WiM has grown since 2010 into a global community of more than 31,000 members, hosting workshops, summits and events that feature speakers from the biggest manufacturers in the world.

The organization supports women across front-line and senior roles, offering vital mentorship and community building, and is set to mark its anniversary with a special celebration at its summit in October later this year in Chicago.

Recognizing the impact and influence of WiM, we ranked its President and Founder Allison Grealis as one of our top manufacturing influencers in our August magazine.

And now to mark fifteen years we're sharing a timeline of how the association has grown and helped advance women in the manufacturing sector.

## 2010

- WiM is created, but this acronym doesn't yet stand for Women in Manufacturing (WiM)
- WiM, standing for Women in Metalforming is created as a supplementary group, an initiative under the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA).
- This initiative seeks to support networking for women in the metalforming sector.



# MANUFACTURING (WiM): A TIMELINE

## 2011

- In 2011, WiM officially rebrands into Women in Manufacturing, expanding its focus beyond metalforming
- The group is now more focused on advancing women's position in the entire manufacturing industry
- It still remains a group under the PMA.

## 2012

- WiM hosts its inaugural national summit in Milwaukee, Wisconsin hosted by the PMA.
- The event attracts 200 female leaders in manufacturing, with Gail Lione, former Chief Compliance Officer, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Harley-Davidson, speaking.
- The event is a success, growing the association's network and profile.

## 2013

- WiM hosts its second national summit from October 22-23 in Detroit, Michigan.
- The group starts to experience a steady growth in membership.
- This reflects both the success of these events and the growth of women entering manufacturing roles around the mid 2010s.

## 2014

- In 2014, WiM launches regional events to complement its national summit.
- These regional events offer localized networking, mentoring and professional development opportunities.

## 2015

- WiM becomes a fully-independent 501(c)(6) trade association no longer under PMA's remit.
- Now a standalone organization, WiM undergoes further expansion.

## 2016

- In 2016, we see a prominent expansion of WiM's educational initiatives.



*Continued on page 26*



## CONTINUED: NAVIGATING THE TRADE LANDSCAPE—

### Practical Advice for Manufacturers:

- Conduct comprehensive due diligence to identify products eligible for exclusions.
- Implement internal processes to track and document the status of goods that may qualify for duty-free treatment.
- Stay informed about the latest Federal Register notices and executive orders governing tariff exemptions.
- Maintain thorough documentation to support claims for tariff exclusion.

**DENTONS**

Understanding the specific criteria and processes for obtaining these exclusions is essential for manufacturers. To fully leverage these opportunities, manufacturers should conduct thorough due diligence to identify products that may be eligible for exclusions and consult with import experts.

To receive our client alerts on this topic, email [ryan.mcdermott@dentons.com](mailto:ryan.mcdermott@dentons.com).

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## CONTINUED: ENERGY PRICING EXPLAINED

### The outcome of PJM's recent auction — and why it matters

Grid operators work with generators to guarantee supply meets demand.

The PJM Interconnection, typically referred to as PJM, is a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia. There are about 65 million customers in the system, and these customers are all going to see increased capacity costs beginning in June 2025 due to the most recent PJM capacity auction clearing at an all-time high — driven by rising demand for electricity, a decrease in supply from retiring plants, and changes in market design. This auction resulted in a significantly higher clearing price of \$269.92 MW per day for most of the PJM footprint — compared to \$28.92 MW per day for the June 2024 to May 2025 capacity year.

As capacity charges are paid to ensure grid operators recoup their costs, these increased costs are intended to incentivize the construction of new power plants to support the region's future electricity need — and ensure electricity reliability in the region. The next PJM auction for the June 2026 to May 2027 capacity year, is expected to take place in July 2025, which could bring further price impacts.



### What customers can do

Think of your capacity tag as the make and model of your car and the capacity rate as the price you'll pay to fuel your car at the pump. Only one of these factors, your tag, is controllable.

On an annual basis, each utility or distribution company is required to calculate and report its peak load contribution to their grid operator. At the end of the summer season, the RTO identifies the highest peak load hours that occurred during a specified period, and the utility then determines each customer's specific load during these hours and calculates the customer's peak load capacity.

When you work with an experienced energy supplier, you can put strategies in place to impact your tag — and, ultimately, your bottom line. While we can't control the energy markets, IGS Energy offers custom-tailored products and services to help our customers manage their energy obligations and expenses. Contact Jake Thomas at [Jake.Thomas@igs.com](mailto:Jake.Thomas@igs.com) or 412.328.6277 to discuss further how these changes affect your budget and how **IGS Energy** can help.

## CONTINUED: FIFTEEN YEARS OF WiM

- The association launches the WiM Education Foundation (WiMEF) as a 501(c)(3) organization designed to provide scholarships and educational resources for women in manufacturing.
- This includes online learning resources and leadership development programs, such as the Leadership Institute.
- WiM also launches 'WiM Works', a job board dedicated to connecting women with career opportunities in manufacturing.

### 2017

- In 2017 WiM starts establishing local chapters across the US to provide grassroots-level support and engagement.

### 2018

- WiM introduces new training programs aimed at addressing the skills gap in manufacturing.

### 2019

- With the outbreak of COVID-19, the end of 2019 marks the start of WiM transitioning more of its events and resources online.
- It conducts virtual training sessions and share resources and webinars.
- This helps broaden WiM's audience and attract younger woman seeking to enter the industry.

### 2020

- In 2020 WiM celebrates its 10th anniversary, a decade of advocating for women in manufacturing.
- WiM establishes the Women in Manufacturing Hall of Fame to recognize the achievements of female leaders.

### 2021

- In 2021 WiM launches its Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Task Force, which focuses on broader inclusion efforts within the manufacturing sector.
- The association starts to truly expand beyond the US, looking to become an international association and support women in manufacturing worldwide.
- To do this, WiM partners with organizations in Europe and Asia.

### 2022

- Thanks to its international expansion and host of initiatives, WiM has grown considerably by 2022.
- The association announces record membership numbers, with thousands of women and companies participating in its summits and initiatives.



## 2023

- WiM's annual summit, held in San Diego and focusing on sustainability and technology, attracts record numbers.
- More than 1,600 people participate, making it WiM's largest gathering to date.
- WiM launches a structured mentorship program to connect experienced professionals with emerging industry leaders.

## 2024

- WiM strengthens its collaborations with industry leaders and educational institutions.
- Now backed and sponsored by many global manufacturers, the association seeks to use its influence to address the systemic challenges women face in manufacturing.
- It releases the report 'Women in Manufacturing 2024: Addressing Labor Shortages and Bridging the Gender Gap', which outlines actionable insights for the sector.

## 2025

- WiM celebrates its 15th anniversary.
- With more than 28,000 members representing 3,000 companies in at least 70 countries, the association is enjoying a period of ongoing growth.
- WiM continues to focus on workforce outreach, STEM outreach and advocates for policy change to support women in manufacturing.



# NTMA members are eligible for FREE membership with WiM.

## NEXT WIM WESTERN PA EVENTS

**Lunch & Learn Webinar Series: Holistic Approach to Stress**

Wednesday, May 21 | 12:00PM-1:00PM

**WiM / AWMI Networking Collaboration**

Il Pizzaiolo (Warrendale)

Thursday, May 22 | 5:30PM-8:00PM

Registration is required.

**LEARN MORE  
AND JOIN  
WIM TODAY!**





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## PGH NTMA CALENDAR

- 5/1 Pittsburgh Chapter NTMA/NTMF Board Meeting
- 5/5 2025 Emerging Leaders Conference
- 5/6 Supervisor Peer Network Meeting
- 5/6 It's How We Play the Game: Build a Business. Take a Stand. Make a Difference.
- 5/13 Catalyst Connection's MFG Works Conference
- 5/20 Chat GPT, AI, and Beyond: Game-changing Technologies that Will Impact Your Industry
- 6/4 Apprentice Graduation
- 6/23 2025 Pittsburgh Chapter Manufacturing Open

For details and more events, please visit:

[www.PGHNTMA.org](http://www.PGHNTMA.org)