

Michigan Defense Suppliers Display Wares for U.S. Military, Government

by Jim Stickford

The National Defense Industrial Organization Expo held last week at the Macomb Community College South Campus helped the military and others see what defense suppliers can do for them.

Event organizer Deanne Gaereminck, who works at TACOM, said that the May 14-15 expo, an annual event, is the fourth of its kind.

"I worked on the first event and last year, because the NDIA is big on the mentor-protege relationship. My mentor, Paul Curtis, put on the expo and I helped. This year was my turn to run it."

The point of the event is to help Michigan businesses involved in the defense industry show off what they can do, Gaereminck said.

"This year, we had more than 140 exhibitors at the show," Gaereminck said. "That number

is a little down from last year due to the recent cuts in the defense budget.

"But what's important is that the number of military and government people were here. The government is looking for new technology and new ideas, as are other small businesses, so holding the expo is important."

Gaereminck said that new to the expo was a formal agenda where people speak about issues in the defense industry. One of the speakers was Deputy Assistant of Defense for Maintenance John B. Johns.

"Every year TACOM has been at the expo, but this year (TACOM'S) senior leadership spoke at the show and that's what people in the industry want to see," said Gaereminck.

During the expo, Pure Michigan Connect held a gathering, Gaereminck said, one of several gatherings across the state that tries to bring Michigan business-



Deanne Gaereminck

es together. Ford recently sponsored a Pure Michigan gathering and invited its suppliers.

Gaereminck called the 2013 expo a success and said that next year they might try reaching out to the community at large.

The expo is held on a college campus and getting students to attend to see the opportunities in the defense field would be a good thing for future exhibitions, she said.

TARDEC Seeks Auto Suppliers' Wisdom and Expertise

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portant to the OEMs who now have to meet stricter federal CAFE standards, it's important for the military, Thomas said, making several points:

- Every gallon of fuel has to be shipped to the battlefield.
- Today's wars usually aren't fought close to gas stations.
- Plus, by lightweighting the vehicles, they use less fuel, which saves money and reduces the logistics "tail" that supplies front-line troops.

"I want to tell auto people that we have many requirements, like suspension, drivetrain and active safety solutions in common," Thomas said. "If someone has a system that he thinks the military will be interested in, he can go to our gateway site at www.tardec.groundvehiclegateway.com. It's a great way to interact with the Detroit Arsenal."

Gen. Mike Stone of the Michigan National Guard also spoke at the Troy event. He said while he works for the state of Michigan, he is recognized as a general by the Army. "We're ideally placed to help

the auto industry," he said. "I'm a former corporate lawyer and I understand how business works. And I'm the assistant adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard, so I know the military."

Stone said the Guard has entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Army Materiel Command, which he describes as the entity two levels above TARDEC.

This agreement allows the TARDEC program manager to come to a state Guard base and use its facilities for things like testing of projects. TARDEC recently tested a driverless vehicle at Camp Grayling in Northern Michigan.

By making it easier for the Army to test equipment in the state, it makes Michigan more attractive for developing equipment, said Stone.

By adding things like cameras and sensors in Camp Grayling so that data can be gathered or analyzed, he said, the site becomes a good place to do things like test driverless vehicles.

"This allows state companies to stay in the state and test their products," Stone said.

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BorgWarner Turbo Success

BorgWarner will provide its leading turbocharging technologies for Jaguar Land Rover's (JLR) new family of four-cylinder gasoline and diesel engines, expected to launch in 2015.

To support JLR's new Engine Manufacturing Centre near Wolverhampton, BorgWarner plans to expand on its existing production lines and build a new engineering center in Bradford, United Kingdom.

In addition, BorgWarner is strengthening its close collaboration with the nearby University of Huddersfield by establishing a master's degree program in turbocharger engineering.

"With our investment in local production and testing, BorgWarner will provide Jaguar Land Rover with fast-to-market, high-quality advanced technologies adapted to their specific needs," said Frederic Lissalde, president and general manager, BorgWarner Turbo Systems. "BorgWarner's investment in innovation will also help support the local econ-

omy with highly skilled engineering and manufacturing jobs, and our increased collaboration with the university will help develop the talent needed to drive turbocharging advancements for the future."

BorgWarner has produced turbocharging systems for several commercial engine manufacturers in Bradford for nearly 35 years. The new production line will expand the company's product offerings to include turbochargers for passenger cars.

Seminar Designed For 65 Year Olds

Macomb County will host "Happy Birthday 65," an award-winning seminar for seniors age 65 or newly disabled June 12, 2:30 p.m., in the VerKuijen Building, 21885 Dunham Rd., in the Senior Auditorium.

Topics include social security, veteran's benefits. Register at macombgov.org/seniorservices.

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