

Upcoming Events

New Employee Orientation

Hosted by the Center for Competency Development.

July 14, 2026; 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.; in-person or virtual

\$40 per person;
Registration is required to
jackie.krawczak@kabu.net

Equipped Live

A live interview with Greg Winter.

July 27, 2026; 6:00 p.m.

A link to view the event will be emailed prior to the event.

Questions for Greg to answer can be submitted in advance to
jackie.krawczak@kabu.net



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A Successful New Intra-IFMC Partnership

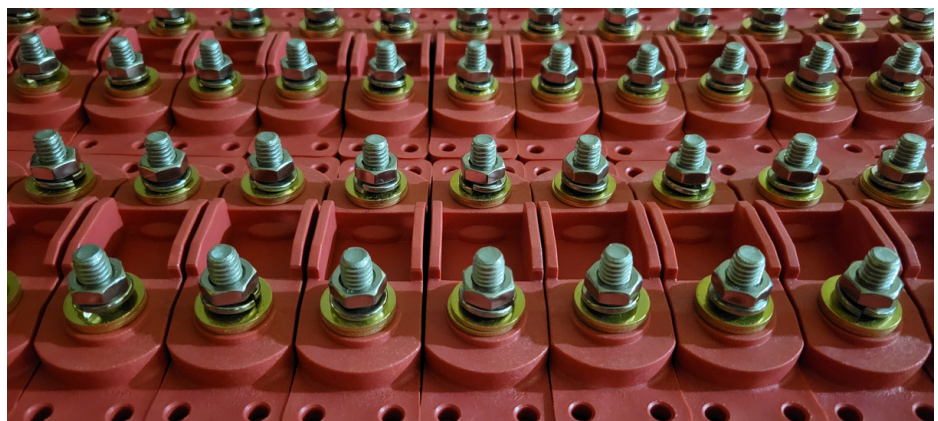
When it became clear that the struggle to find people to work at Forgeon Solutions, Inc. (FSI), in Pellston, MI was the main reason behind extended lead times, Derek Chowen, Operations Manager for FSI, needed to find a solution. He knew that Reacher Mfg., Corp. (RMC) in Alpena, MI had experience and expertise in assembly work for high production/high volume equipment, and he knew they had some available capacity.

Derek worked with Keli Werda, VP of Operations for RMC, to make the partnership a reality. Since starting this relationship, they have been able to meet delivery promises made to customers. FSI did not lose any employees from the transfer of assembly work, and RMC saved some jobs that may have been eliminated if they didn't take on more work.

"It's a cool story," shared Derek. "It was an easy decision to pursue this; it is really the core of the IFMC way – utilizing the partnerships in the IFMC to meet promises made to customers."

Keli added, "This was a winning situation for RMC, FSI and customers. It doesn't get any better than that. We appreciate this new relationship!"

Learn more about FSI at [Terminal Insulators, Caps & Covers, Electro-Mechanical Connectors, Fuse Holders.](#)



Another Successful Loctite Training



Several ESI clients sent employees to a Loctite workshop offered by The Center for Competency Development, in partnership with BDI. Jason, the presenter, did a fantastic job teaching attendees about the many different Loctite solutions and products.

Participants were surprised to learn about the new product offerings, including some new product dispensers so there is less waste and more equal application.

IFMC 2.0 Featured in Equipped Live Events

If you have not heard of IFMC 2.0 yet, you must not have viewed any of the three most recent Equipped Live episodes. You can view them on ESI's YouTube Channel. Below is a brief explanation from Greg Winter of IFMC 2.0, summarized from a transcript of the April 2026 Equipped Live event.

"IFMC 2.0 is really about preparing for a major technology shift driven by AI. Most people are familiar with both the concerns and the opportunities AI presents. The IFMC has been through major technology shifts before. During the lifetime of the IFMC, we've seen the rise of computers, CNC equipment, concerns about offshoring to China, and more recently, the internet. Each brought uncertainty, but each time the IFMC adapted by embracing the change rather than avoiding it. That's the approach with AI. We want to tackle it head-on and prepare for what's coming. Whether the transition happens quickly or gradually, I'm confident it will happen. The timing is uncertain, but I'm not overly concerned because I believe we can adapt and continue to add value."

Leadership Brags

Rob Frantz submitted the following brag about Shawn Weldon and the team at Altus Mfg., LLC in Hastings, MI. “I’d like to recognize Shawn Weldon and the entire team at Altus Mfg. in Hastings for their outstanding work and commitment to excellence. This photo was taken following a successful customer and end-user Factory Acceptance Test for the water screens being produced at the Hastings facility.

Shawn and his crew have been instrumental in elevating this product line to a new level for IFMC, consistently demonstrating exceptional craftsmanship, problem-solving, and attention to detail. The Hastings facility is uniquely suited for this work, with its twin 50-ton overhead cranes and 42-foot hook height providing the ideal environment for manufacturing and testing these massive units. Most impressive, however, is the team’s execution. This test was completed flawlessly—just as every test conducted by this group has been.



I am incredibly proud of their persistence, professionalism, and ability to overcome challenges while continually raising the bar for quality and performance. Their efforts have positioned us well for significant future opportunities. These screens range from 10 feet wide by 50 feet long to upcoming units measuring an impressive 17 feet 6 inches wide and 85 feet long. What makes this even more remarkable is that these structures are fully welded and shipped as single-piece units.

The scale of the work is impressive, but the consistency, dedication, and expertise of the Altus Mfg. team are what truly set them apart. Congratulations and thank you to Shawn and the entire crew on another outstanding accomplishment.”



Pictured left - an aerial view of two of the screens. Pictured right - a screen up close.

Leadership Brags for future editions of Equipped should be submitted to jackie.krawczak@kabu.net.

Contact ESI

Newsletter

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HR Questions

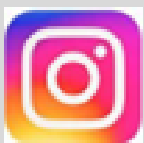
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Career Opportunities

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Your Retirement Benefits Matter

A Message From John Hancock



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Your retirement plan helps you financially prepare for your future, but your preparation doesn't stop there. You need to protect your account from fraud, and you need to make sure that it goes to the right person when you're no longer around.

You can help protect your account with these easy steps



Register your account and provide an email address and mobile phone number to stay connected and informed about important plan updates and transaction activity.



Elect a beneficiary, so that you control who gets money in your account in the event something happens to you.



Register your account—online or on our mobile app

Registering your account and providing your current email address and mobile number can help prevent someone else from posing as you and accessing your retirement savings. Online account registration also:

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- Adds layers of security to your account.
- Allows Manulife John Hancock Retirement to contact you quickly if we suspect unauthorized activity.

When you do your part to keep your retirement account safe online, Manulife John Hancock Retirement backs you up with our Cybersecurity Guarantee.¹ For full details, log in to your account and select **Account security**.

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Elect or update your retirement account beneficiary

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To add or update your beneficiary, log in to myplan.johnhancock.com and select **Update my beneficiary info**, under **My profile**.

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Keep your account safe!

- 1 Pick a username that's personal and difficult to guess.
- 2 Create a strong, unique password.
- 3 Provide your current mobile number and personal email address.
- 4 Choose security questions and answers that are relevant, known only to you, and difficult to guess. Be careful not to share personal information on social media, as it can then be used by others to answer your security questions.



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