
Boeing Co. shares details of new virtual manufacturing center in Heath

Friday, September 12, 2008 10:47 PM

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By Tim Norman/ThisWeek

Cory Ellinger, Boeing Co. system engineer, explains the creation process of 3-dimension models in the new virtual manufacturing center.

Boeing Co. representatives last week celebrated the completion of the company's expansion in Heath to include a virtual manufacturing center (VMC).

Government officials and local business leaders gathered Sept. 10 to watch a presentation on the project, which creates 3-dimensional models that could be projected into the center of a room.

The models could help with Boeing's production of aerospace products, development of new buildings within the company and in supporting the country's major defense systems. But the models also could help other companies by projecting the way a new building or manufacturing system should appear -- before it's built -- to help designers work out any potential problems, company officials say.

The expansion is great for Heath, Mayor Richard Waugh said.

"It's pretty exciting to see these things happening in Heath, Ohio," he said.

The center is expected to create new jobs and expand the company's productivity.

Rick Platt, executive director of the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority, said the company already provides \$6-billion in business in Ohio and surrounding states, working with 2,000 suppliers.

Boeing is Heath's largest employer, with 1,018 employees.

The VMC cost more than \$1-million and was aided by \$240,000 in state funding and \$260,000 from the Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority.

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