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Boeing officials to advise Vermont companies how to become suppliers

COLCHESTER, Vt. – Vermont firms will have an opportunity to learn how to do business with aerospace giant Boeing when officials from the company visit the state next month.

The Vermont Council for Quality and the Vermont Department of Economic Development will welcome two representatives from Boeing Integrated Defense Systems (IDS) – Dan Korte, Vice President of Supplier Management and Procurement and Joan Robinson-Berry, Director of IDS Supplier Diversity – to the May 23 Boeing Preferred Supplier Conference in Colchester.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for Vermont companies,” said Vermont Council for Quality Director of Operations Laurie Emerson. “Dan and Joan will provide firsthand knowledge about doing business with Boeing, and we are very pleased that Lt. Governor Brian Dubie, who has a keen interest in the aerospace industry, will be on hand to speak.”

The morning event, to be held at the Hampton Inn in Colchester, will give participants guidance in how to become a preferred supplier to Boeing and the system requirements and product standards required.

“As a pilot who currently flies Boeing aircraft and as a former employee of Goodrich Aerospace, a major supplier of Boeing, I am really excited to be a part of this gathering,” Dubie said. “The Douglas administration recognizes that the aerospace sector is an important part of Vermont’s economy and this conference will really help strengthen and expand it.”

Boeing’s IDS Supplier Management and Procurement organization is comprised of more than 3,500 employees in 30 states and eight countries, and is responsible for the annual purchase of \$13 billion in products and services vital to Boeing’s operations.

The Vermont Department of Economic Development – in partnership with the Vermont Council for Quality – is sponsoring the event to help Vermont manufacturers and service providers become more aware of high performing quality systems that are required to be a preferred supplier to organizations such as The Boeing Company. Boeing is a two-time Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Recipient.

“Vermont has a reputation for the quality of its workforce and the goods they produce, and this conference is an opportunity to help Vermont companies improve in both areas while they grow their business,” said Mike Quinn, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Economic Development. The department is part of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Founded in 1996, Vermont Council for Quality is non-profit corporation that helps Vermont organizations improve performance and competitiveness. VCQ is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Program and is one of 45 state and local award programs in the United States. VCQ provides continuous improvement education and training, organizational assessment surveys, networking opportunities, serves as a resource referral for information, knowledge, and sharing of best practices within and between Vermont organizations.

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