

The employment scene on PEI

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Aerospace industry soars

by Patricia Roy

Aerospace Sector

In a recent news release, **Hon. Allan Campbell**, Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning reported that in 2008 PEI's aerospace companies enjoyed annual sales of \$310 million. That was a ten percent increase over 2007. Employment in this sector was up ten percent as well. On PEI, 850 people are now employed in this field. Aerospace accounts for about 25 percent of PEI's international exports.

PEI's Aerospace companies include:

- Action Aero
- Honeywell
- MDS Prad
- Marand Engineering
- Testori Americas
- Tronosjet
- Tube-Fab
- Wiebel Aerospace
- Vector Aerospace

Company expansion

Recently it was announced that **Testori Americas** will receive a \$1.75 million loan and a \$4 million line of credit from the PEI government. The company has a number of new contracts, and will use some of the money to purchase new production equipment. Testori employs 152 workers at its Slemmon Park facility, and 37 in Bloomfield. Because of this expansion, they expect to hire 50 more workers within the next nine months.

The corporation's Slemmon Park operation began in 1994, and a new building was constructed in 2005. The Bloomfield division opened in 2003. Testori also operates manufacturing plants in New York state and in Italy.

The company manufactures components for the mass transit and air travel industry world-wide. It also designs custom-made products for individual customers. Products include luggage racks, molded lavatories, doors, partitions, windows, cabin linings and ceilings using fiberglass, plastics and other materials.

General Manager **Mike Hall** says the demand for their product has been steadily increasing over the years. "The instability of oil prices encourages people to consider mass transit and it is getting more and more popular," he says. "Our success is also due to how the company has positioned itself in the marketplace."

Increasing training for workers

Mike says they are planning to offer further training to workers the company plans to hire. "We will look at partnering with organizations to



Mike Hall, General Manager of Testori Americas, beside several of the company-manufactured molded window components used in railway cars.

develop a six- to eight-week program that would suit our needs.

"To make sure we match the right person to the right job, we recently implemented a one-week program that includes classroom work and job shadowing. This is something we did not have before and it is proving very helpful in directing people to the right job on the manufacturing floor."

With the increased demand for their products, Mike says a lot more manufactured components will be going out the doors over the next six months than ever before. "We are currently evaluating our production efficiency. There has been an increase in staffing to do the engineering and the prototype work. Now we will begin to evaluate how many people will be needed to do the actual manufacturing."

Applying for work

Testori will begin the hiring process over the next three to four months. Job openings are advertised through the Job Bank, local newspapers, and on their website.

To apply in person, pick up an application at the reception desk.

Send your application to payroll@testoriamericas.com or fax to 436-4456.

Visit www.aerospacepei.com for career opportunities with Testori Americas and other aerospace companies on PEI.

For more information, call 888-3200 or visit www.testoriamericas.com

