The Center for Advanced Nuclear Manufacturing is Officially Open for Business

Ribbon Cutting / Open House Showcased Unique Capabilities

On August 24, 2017, Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC) held the Center for Advanced Nuclear Manufacturing (CANM) inaugural event – a Ribbon Cutting / Open House.

The event was part of a two-day CANM kick-off. The first event, the Ready4Nuclear Suppliers Workshop, was held in Pittsburgh on August 23, 2017. Tom Miller of the U.S. Department of Energy delivered the keynote address, and nearly two dozen speakers led sessions for new and current suppliers about the current and future outlook of nuclear power generation. Another highlight was the three-minute “Speed Matching” sessions, where attendees gave an elevator pitch on their company’s capabilities and interest.

The CANM Ribbon Cutting / Open House at CTC included remarks from Rob Akans, CTC Senior Director, Manufacturing Technologies; Edward J. Sheehan, Jr., CTC President & CEO; U.S. Congressman Keith Rothfus (PA-12); and David Blee, United States Nuclear Infrastructure Council Executive Director. The event featured tours of nearly a dozen of CTC’s technical capabilities, from additive (3D) manufacturing, friction stir welding, prototype tool development, and much more.

How CANM Came to Be

As the nuclear supply, design, and construction industry ramps up its efforts to build the next generation of small modular and advanced reactors, the logistics and manufacturing challenges are being addressed in innovative ways. CTC is operating CANM to connect manufacturing technologies with opportunities to participate in the nation’s advanced nuclear manufacturing network.
Visitors said they were impressed with the breadth of technology expertise. Included in their 1.5-hour tours were stops that showcased friction stir welding (P.J. McMullen is shown in the top picture) and additive manufacturing (Ken Sabo and Jake Rosenbaum are in the bottom picture).

The United States Nuclear Infrastructure Council (NIC) developed the concept for an advanced manufacturing and research center and conducted a search for the right company to operate the center. “CTC emerged as the consensus choice based on its 30-year history and its track record in advanced manufacturing, large infrastructure/highbay space, equipment, testing facilities, and subject matter experts with experience in key technologies including additive manufacturing, casting, cybersecurity for manufacturing, and more,” said Vince Gilbert, Senior Fellow, NIC.

**CANM Moving Forward**

Industry experts predict that the world will need hundreds of the next generation Small Modular Reactors in the next 20 years to address the growing demand for electrical power. But these new reactors present numerous technical issues, from addressing supply chain capabilities to developing mechanized/automated manufacturing processes to support higher demand volumes.

CTC will leverage its decades of experience and expertise in leading teams to develop and transition innovative technology into real-world applications. Using a combination of private industry and government funding, CTC will partner with manufacturing technology specialists (original equipment manufacturers, first-tier suppliers, materials suppliers, equipment providers, academia, and government laboratories) to develop manufacturing technology that is ready to be used on the shop floor. As a non-profit company, CTC will utilize a project development model that ensures the project team includes the right solution providers without pre-conceived bias for any particular equipment, material, or process.

“We are excited to roll up our sleeves and work with NIC’s working group, NIC member companies, academia, and other organizations interested in supporting nuclear facilities and upcoming nuclear construction projects,” said Edward J. Sheehan, Jr., CTC President and CEO.