



Manufacturers' Digital Whistle

April 2025 Newsletter

Register now for a tour of Westfall Technik!

Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of Westfall Technik's state-of-the-art facility. Discover how their integrated approach is revolutionizing the plastics manufacturing industry.



When: Thursday, May 8, 2025

Where: Riverside, CA

Time: Morning Tour: 9:00 am

Afternoon Tour: 3:00 pm

RESERVATION IS REQUIRED – This is an **invitation-only event for manufacturers**. Space is Limited. To make a reservation, please contact: **Sarah Johnson** Email: sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com

Why Attend?

- **Integrated Solutions:** Discover Westfall's Stacked Integration Model™ for faster, higher-quality end-to-end production.
- **Advanced Tech:** See industry-leading micro-molding and automation in action.
- **Quality Focus:** Learn how 100% defect-free parts are achieved through top-tier quality control.

- **Sustainability:** Explore their eco-friendly practices that support people and the planet.

Manufacturing Careers Charity Golf Event is Getting Ready to Tee-off

Plan to support a great cause – training for future skilled workers in manufacturing.

Plans are well underway for the June 2nd tournament benefiting the Manufacturers' Council, a 501 (3) non-profit, and their work with students and educators.



Join us for a fantastic day of golf, networking, and fun while supporting the Manufacturers' Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Our mission is to collaborate with manufacturers and educators across the Inland Empire to ensure a well-prepared workforce that keeps the manufacturing industry thriving.

Help us continue this great work. Sign up for golf or sponsorship opportunities at mfgcouncilie.com/golf.

April 17th the MCIE and Members Were Welcomed to Tour Ventura Foods

The group was welcomed by Victor Coronado, who is from Ventura Foods' Brea office. He introduced Andrea Hogue, Senior Plant Director at the Ontario Plant, who spoke briefly. Andrea has a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech. Andrea stated that the Ontario plant was opened around the year 2007, with 325,000 square feet devoted to manufacturing, and 350,000 square feet devoted to warehouse and distribution. The building was originally occupied by Target Stores as a distribution center, so has many more truck docks than they presently use.



Ventura Foods has 4,000 employees worldwide, producing 4,000 SKUs, and 3 billion pounds of product annually. Victor's slides showed 17 facilities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and the Philippines. It was founded as the merger of two companies in 1996, Mitsui (\$90B revenue) and CHS (\$32B revenue), and exports to more than 95 countries. One of the highlights of the tour was the rail yard, where Victor stated they hold 80 rail tank cars of food-grade oils (marked with net product weight of more than 80,000 pounds each). Those are jockeyed around during night hours, between the plant and an off-site location, as they empty (and occasionally fill) those rail cars. Sandwiched in between were tractor-trailers (for highway transport) of various products such as olive oil and avocado oil, which they use in much less quantity. While this is how the massive amounts of oils come into the plant, Victor said they have some customers (such as prisons) to whom they ship processed oils by rail tank car.

- Wallace Brithinee, PhD, President, MCIE

Adapting to Tariffs and Supply Chain Uncertainty: A Risk Management Approach

In this special video presentation, CMTC Supply Chain Consultant Barbara Weg, CSCP walks you through:

- How to identify and categorize internal vs. external supply chain risks
- Tariff engineering strategies to reduce costs legally
- Tactics for managing supplier reliability, logistics disruptions, and financial volatility



Learn more at: <https://offers.cmtc.com/adapting-to-tariffs-and-supply-chain-uncertainty-video>

***Congratulations and Many Thanks* to our supporters who completed the MEP Periodic Survey on time!**

Bluescope Coated Products – Christina Caldera

Walker Manufacturing Group – Katie Dominguez

Cemex – Stephanie Pazarin

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Ventura Foods



Ventura Foods is a private food company that specializes in condiments under three platforms: Dressings/Sauces/Mayo (DSM), Margarine and Oils.

JDL Enterprises

Providing reasonably priced custom cabinet upgrades & maintenance services, countertop, backsplash, lighting, custom finishing & refinishing, acoustical wall covering & wallpaper, painting, moulding & general woodworking services since 1995.

Economic Updates:

- **Manufacturing PMI - April 23:** According to S&P Global's flash report released on April 23, 2025, the Manufacturing PMI rose to 50.7 in April from 50.2 in March, surpassing market expectations of 49.1. However, the broader economic context shows signs of slowing. Rising tariffs have contributed to increased costs and inflationary pressures, particularly in manufacturing. Businesses are also exhibiting caution in hiring and investment due to economic uncertainties. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/us-business-activity-rises-march-sentiment-deteriorates-further-2025-03-24/>
- **Impact of Tariffs and Trade Policies**
Recent U.S. tariffs, including a 25% levy on auto imports, are prompting companies to reassess their supply chains. For instance, General Motors is increasing production at its Ohio transmission facility, shifting focus from electric vehicle components to internal combustion engine transmissions.

https://www.reuters.com/business/autos-transportation/gm-increase-production-ohio-transmission-facility-2025-04-23/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

California Manufacturers may be impacted by employment-related bills introduced in 2025

- **Pay Transparency:** Legislation requiring employers to disclose salary ranges in job postings.
- **Automated Decision Systems:** Regulations governing the use of AI and automated systems in employment decisions.
- **Workplace Surveillance:** Rules addressing employee monitoring and data privacy.
- **Paid Family Leave Expansion:** Proposals to broaden eligibility and benefits for family leave.

These measures could necessitate policy updates and compliance efforts within manufacturing organizations. For more information, visit:

https://ogletree.com/insights-resources/blog-posts/california-legislature-introduces-several-employment-law-bills-for-2025/?utm_source=elinfonet

Membership Updates:

- Interested in hosting an MCIE facility tour? Contact us at contact@mfgcouncilie.com for more information.
- Interested in exclusive articles and content on business and policy topics? Join the conversation by following us on our [LinkedIn](#) page and other social media platforms, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), or check out our [Linktree](#)!
- The MCIE is committed to the development of our workforce at every stage, including getting young girls and boys interested in invention, creation, and STEM disciplines. If you know of a library or school near you that might be interested in receiving a book donation to inspire our next generation of young manufacturers, contact us at contact@mfgcouncilie.com with your suggestion.

Additional Resources:

Wind & Fire Disaster Assistance: [California wildfires](#) | [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)
Small Business Loan Program: [7\(a\) loans](#) | [U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

Have a profitable May!

Molly

Molly Burgess

Executive Director

mburgess@mfgcouncilie.com

Cell: 909.965.6089

Office: 909.474.7120

[Website](#) | [Social Media & News](#)



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