

frontline



miamisburg mound community improvement corporation

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Senator Foresees Mound as Center for New Energy Companies

New business opportunities are emerging as a result of the nation's search for alternative energies, and a growing number of people believe Mound should become the focal point for that activity.

Among them is U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, who recently toured the site and held a roundtable discussion with local leaders and representatives of energy-related businesses to learn how the federal government could help launch Mound as a leader in alternative energy efforts.

Brown heard from 16 roundtable participants that the area has plenty of talent to develop new energy technologies and the skilled workers needed for production. What is lacking, the business representatives said, are tax incentives and funding to propel new ideas into marketable products.

Momentum has been growing in recent months for Mound to become an alternative energy center. Aided by \$1 million in 2010 Energy and Water Bill funds, Mound has begun planning of an initiative to develop, deploy, demonstrate and integrate renewable and alternative energy at the site.

"As a former Department of Energy site, Mound is a natural for this role," said MMCIC board member Dick Church, Jr. "Our goal is to generate new jobs, support the nation's energy independence, and create a renewable energy campus that will serve as a tool for education and networking."

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Sen. Brown's visit adds momentum to Mound's emerging role as an energy center. Pictured here are (l to r) Sen. Brown, MMCIC board member Dick Church, Jr., and MMCIC president Mike Grauwelman.



mound hosts second energy roundtable



Some 20 vendors had the opportunity to display exhibits featuring their products and services at the Energy Roundtable.

A standing-room-only crowd of more than 150 participants was on hand last month for the second Energy Roundtable held at the Mound Advanced Technology Center. The focus of the event was solar energy, with presenters from the U.S. Department of Energy, the state of Ohio and various solar energy businesses.

Presentations centered on solar energy technologies, resources available through the government sources and the financial considerations of implementation. Some 20 businesses and organizations

displayed exhibits featuring their products and services.

"This was an important opportunity for the various players in alternative energy technologies to share information and network," said MMCIC board president Eric Cluxton. "We are pleased to be able to fill this role in our region."

The event was organized by the Dayton Development Coalition and MMCIC. It was sponsored by the Dayton Power and Light Company and Melink Corporation,

Energy Event Well Received

What did Energy Roundtable participants think of the event? Here are some of their comments:

Thanks for inviting me! I enjoyed it very much and made some good contacts, which will hopefully sprout into opportunity in the future.

Mark Schuetz
Replex Plastics

Thanks again for inviting me to speak at your Solar Round Table event last Wednesday. I have been to numerous solar events over the years, but Mound's focused content, starting with Solar 101, was one of the best mini-events that I have attended. Your excellent turnout speaks well for Mound's reputation as well.

Greg Kuss
Solarvision, LLC

and supported by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The first Energy Roundtable was held at Mound in June 2009. The next one, slated for spring 2010, will focus on energy efficiency.

mound has keys to succeed, expert says

The benefits of locating at the Mound Advanced Technology Center are many, some experts believe, and even more are on the way.

'A surprisingly good location'

The list of advantages – including the synergy of the site's entrepreneurial, technology-oriented companies, the business development support offered by MMCIC, existing robust facilities and the close proximity to downtown Miamisburg's amenities – is growing.

"Mound has a surprisingly good location with the Austin Road interchange coming," said Gerry Smith, an industrial property broker with Miller-Valentine Group. "There

is going to be a lot of growth in that entire area, which will benefit Mound.

"It (the interchange) will also make it possible to recruit employment from Dayton, Cincinnati and areas in between."

BRAC contracts coming

Smith is part of the MVG team providing brokerage services for several Mound buildings. He believes that while the Dayton area's industrial real estate market has recently been hit hard by the economy, brighter days are 18 to 24 months away as BRAC missions complete their transfer to Wright Patterson Air Force Base and begin awarding research contracts to private companies.

"These contracts will be short-term – maybe one to five years – so no business will want to build," he said. "We think all the area's existing tech facilities will be absorbed."

Smith also recognizes the potential for Mound to benefit from commercial spin-offs of military technology developments in the areas of materials and sensors. The "green" energy market represents a good fit for Mound as well.

"The people who have been to Mound and seen it first-hand are optimistic about its future," he said. "They (MMCIC) have done an amazing job of making it into a modern business park."



company's growth drives move

Even the best relationships sometimes have to end. Such is the case with Thaler Precision Machining Company and the Mound Advanced Technology Center.

One of the first companies to locate at Mound 15 years ago, Thaler's business has expanded, outgrowing its 24,000-square-foot building. In fact, the company has outgrown every building available on the site.

"We've been very fortunate. All our customers come through word-of-mouth," said owner Bill Thaler, whose company serves the aerospace, automotive and defense industries. "We have good people

and good synergy. People like working with us."

Despite efforts to keep the business and its 63 jobs in Miamisburg – Bill Thaler's first choice – the company has found its best opportunity with a 70,000-square-foot facility in Springboro and will move this summer.

"(MMCIC president) Mike Grauwelman and the people of MMCIC have been great to work with," he said. "I can't say enough positive things about them."

Mound officials have mixed feelings about the move.



Thaler Precision Machining Company and its employees have been a great asset to the Mound Advanced Technology Center for 15 years. The firm has outgrown its space at the site and is moving to a larger facility nearby.

"Thaler Precision Machining Company took a gamble moving to Mound at a time when so much about the site's future was uncertain," said Grauwelman. "We are sorry to see them leave but happy for their success."

from humble beginnings to huge success: PerkinElmer Sensors chosen for award

One of the original companies formed after Mound's closure as a defense weapons facility was recently recognized for its outstanding contributions to the success of the Mound Advanced Technology Center.

A 2009 Mound Builder Award was presented to Doug Benner, John Adams and Barry Neyer of PerkinElmer Miamisburg, a company that began in 1994 with eight former Mound employees who named the company Star City Inc.

It has since evolved as a leading global optoelectronics company that develops and manufactures energetic safety devices for the defense and aerospace industries.

"I can remember speaking with three of the principals when their operation was spread over four or five buildings," said Mike Grauwelman, MMCIC president. "They needed support from MMCIC to move equipment in order to complete their first contract, which was work on the

Trident missile. It turned out to be a great investment for us."

The company, which became part of the multinational corporation, PerkinElmer Sensors Inc., in 1999, is now recognized as a Defense and Aerospace Center of Excellence. Several major defense contractors have honored the firm as supplier of the year for the quality of its products, success in solving design challenges and timely delivery.



PerkinElmer Miamisburg now employs 73 people and anticipates increasing employment by 25 percent annually in each of the next several years.

Receiving the Mound Falcon Award on behalf of PerkinElmer Miamisburg were (front row, l to r) Barry Neyer, John Adams, and Doug Benner. Representing the MMCIC Board were (back row, l to r) Dick Flitcraft, Bob Bell, Dick Church, Jr., George Perrine, James Van Tassel, John Weithofer, Eric Cluxton, and Mike Grauwelman.



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museum tells a powerful story

For most area residents, the Mound Laboratory was a mystery for 50 years. The secrets surrounding Mound were cleared up, however, with the site's closure in 1993. And the revelations leave no doubt that the scientists and others who worked there were at the forefront of technological advancements that safeguarded the U.S. through the turbulence of World War II and the Cold War.

Built in 1946 to consolidate and continue the work of the "Dayton Units" – sites around the region dedicated to the research and development of components for nuclear weapons – Mound became an important source of discoveries in nuclear isotope technology, including long-life power sources still in use for deep-space exploration.

Many archives from the half-century of accomplishments by Mound workers are being preserved by the volunteers of the Mound Museum Association. Located at 500 Vantage Point at Mound, the museum is a rich national asset and a solid reminder



Sen. Sherrod Brown presents the Congressional Resolution of Appreciation to honor former nuclear workers at Mound to Dick Flitcraft, former director of Mound Laboratory for the Monsanto Corporation from 1971 to 1982, as MMCIC board chairman Eric Cluxton looks on. The certificate is housed in the Mound Museum.

of how Dayton's innovators have impacted world history.

The Mound Museum is open every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. Tours are available. Please call 937-847-2610 or visit the museum's website at <http://moundmuseum.com/>.

