

More than a dozen manufacturing firms call Yankton home

Why?

What makes Yankton a community where they want to build a plant and employ workers?

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some of its major customers and build strong relationships with them.

"We've been in Yankton for more than 50 years and have plans to remain here," he added. "For the most part, the political environment in Yankton and South Dakota is friendly to business/manufacturing. Our Yankton location provides an experienced, stable workforce who work well together and also with their worldwide teams."

Worker compensation permits Vishay to be competitive, and operating costs such as utilities are low compared to the company's other sites throughout the world, Husman said.

"The work ethic in Yankton is generally as good, if not better, than other regions of the world," he stated. "Yankton is sometimes more attractive than other regions when comparing concerns for corruption, ethics, safety and regional political stability."

Vishay has locations in places such as Marshall and Duluth, Minn.; Dover, N.H.; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Juarez, Mexico; Beer Sheva, Israel; and two locations in China.

Like most Midwestern communities,

According to Mike Husman, division head of the Inductor Division of Vishay, Yankton allows the company to be relatively close to

Yankton and the surrounding area is filled with people who have a strong work ethic.

Also, South Dakota programs designed to support the creation of job opportunities have benefited the Yankton market.

But for some, the reasons for doing business in Yankton are much simpler. That's the case with Brian Strahl, Ken Karolevitz, Jackie Smith and Lee Orth, who own Dakota Trailer Manufacturing.

"For the four of us, we're all from here," Strahl said. "I love this town. I love the fishing, the hunting. I like that my kids play sports at Yankton High where I graduated. These other guys have a lot of the same thoughts."

Strahl said he believes there must be advantages to having a manufacturing plant in Yankton, otherwise his peers wouldn't be located here. One such advantage is the presence of the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC), he stated.

"For me, it's my hometown," Strahl admits. "I can't tell you the advantages of the other towns, because I've never looked. I've never wanted to. Maybe we're a little odd that way."

Of course, Yankton also poses challenges for manufacturers.

Husman said it's a challenge to add staff for non-traditional



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