



PHOTO: VISHAY DALE

The specialized work of this employee at Vishay Dale Electronics in Yankton demonstrates some of the skills and resources that are utilized in Yankton's manufacturing sector. More than a dozen businesses call Yankton home, forming an integral part of the local economy.

Why Yankton?

Manufacturing To Be A Vital Player In Yankton's Future

BY MIKE DELLINGER
Yankton Office Of Economic Development

It is generally recognized that the Yankton regional economy is founded upon three key industry sectors: Agriculture, medicine and manufacturing. The focus of this perspective is Yankton's manufacturing sector and the significant role that it will play in determining the economic future of Yankton and our region.

It is important to note a common definition of manufacturing. Manufacturing is the process of converting raw materials, components or parts into finished goods that meet a customer's expectations. These finished goods may be consumed in the local economy but typically are exported in exchange for monetary value that is then introduced into the local economy where the good was produced. The production effort in this sector relies upon primary jobs — jobs that create the finished goods that are exported in lieu of new money that is returned to the local economy.

On a micro scale — that is, in our own community — we often see the cyclical ebb and flow of manufacturing economics. One must only travel a short distance into the past — a few years back to 2008 — to see how local manufacturing is influenced by the global economy for which Yankton manufacturers produce a variety of finished products. In the past four years, Yankton has seen the loss and recoupment of hundreds of manufacturing jobs that regenerated in response to increased global demand after



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mike Dellinger, executive director of the Yankton Office Of Economic Development, says manufacturing will play a "significant role" in determining the area's economic future.

the Great Recession's passing. As difficult as that recession was on our local economy, Yankton did not lose a primary employer at a time when hundreds of factories were being shuttered around the country — what fortune we enjoy that these companies choose to operate in our community.

Traveling a little bit farther back into the past, in the mid-1990s, manufacturing employees were often told that the future of manufacturing would require fewer workers with greater skills sets that add value to the manufacturing process. Twenty years later, we now see the results of this forewarning through

DELLINGER | PAGE 15B

What Is It About This Community That Prompts More Than A Dozen Manufacturers To Do Business Here?

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

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? The *Press & Dakotan* asked several companies about why they choose to do business here and what can be done to improve it as a manufacturing center.

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

YANKTON | PAGE 7B



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