Touring Tech – Manufacturers Find Value When They See What ISU Can Do

Nathan Meyer was no stranger to CIRAS, but he wasn’t fully aware of all the resources the ISU-based economic development arm of Iowa State University offers to small businesses. Through Lean Touring Tech, a unique program designed to help manufacturers and others in the local area, Meyer says he learned about a number of resources that could benefit him and his company.

“Nathan Meyer is director of engineering for Ozonics LLC, a Mason City maker of water treatment systems that uses a combination of ozone technology and proprietary minerals to make drinking water safe. After taking a CIRAS-led tour of campus research labs in the fall of 2017, he says he learned about ISU’s Office of Economic Development and Industry Relations, which can help companies and other organizations with a variety of needs.

“Ozonics, like many other companies, was looking for new research and development opportunities. I learned that CIRAS could help with that. We had a very positive experience and thought it would be a good fit.”

Meyer says he was impressed by the range of research and other capabilities at ISU, including the ability to conduct testing on a variety of materials. “I learned about the Engineering Research Facilities and the ISU Manufacturing Facility, which could provide us with a lot of testing and development capability,” he says.

He also learned about the ISU Cooperative Extension Service, which can offer training and other resources to help companies improve their processes. “I learned about the ISU Pork Industry Center, which could help us improve our processes for processing pork,” he says.

Meyer says he was also impressed by the willingness of ISU staff to work with companies to help them achieve their goals. “I learned about the ISU Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade and the ISU Center for Agricultural and Rural Economic Development, which could help us develop new products and services,” he says.

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