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Quality control technician in clean room garb at the leading producer of specialty metal and chemical products 5N Plus Inc.'s new facility in Trail.

CBT Strengthening Manufacturing and Technology Sector With New \$300,000 Initiative Tuesday, October 04, 2011

Partnership with two local leading science and technology organizations

CBT announces a \$300,000 partnership with Kootenay Association for Science and Technology (KAST) and Kootenay Rockies Innovation Council (KRIC) to further develop the manufacturing and technology sector in the Basin.

The Manufacturing and Technology Sector Development Pilot Initiative is a two-year pilot initiative that will focus on the development and expansion of the Basin manufacturing and technology sector. Activities over the two years will include a business retention and expansion survey and strategy development, peer support and networking programs, virtual business incubator and development resource and sector symposium.

"This initiative aims to support a diverse economic landscape in the Basin," said Neil Muth, CBT President and CEO. "With a focus on manufacturing and technology, the initiative will allow CBT to explore its strategic role in strengthening this sector."

The initiative will support the region to better compete in the global market, provide support to start-up companies in the region, keep sector talent in the Basin and provide role-models and mentors to businesses and employees.




"Support from CBT will enable KAST and KRIC to build on strategic business development and regional economic diversification efforts, by piloting a suite of initiatives that support growth in the manufacturing and technology sector," said Kelvin Saldern, KAST Executive Director.

"With the project being Basin-wide, it would be hard to imagine a better partnership; this is a great opportunity to leverage the capabilities of each organization in a targeted way," said Larry Sparks, KRIC Executive Director.

KAST is a professional organization that actively promotes science, technology and innovation, and facilitates meaningful connections to stimulate entrepreneurial and economic development.

KRIC is a non-profit society that provides programming and events targeted at businesses, communities and students/educators related to science, technology and innovation.

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