

October 22, 2020 Pratt & Whitney management announced that they would be building a new plant in Ashville, North Carolina that would do work that would be complimentary to what our members do in the Turbine Module Center. The new 1 million square foot facility would have an advanced casting foundry as well as a machine shop, and coating facility giving Pratt & Whitney the ability to do Turbine Airfoils for the F-135 as well as the GTF engine families.

What does this mean for the membership? While Pratt & Whitney is telling union leadership they do not expect any change or work leaving Connecticut, only time will tell. They tell union leadership that this new complementary facility will allow them to keep up with anticipated growth and that the company's investment will be approximately \$650 million dollars and this facility will be wholly owned by Pratt & Whitney.

What does this mean for Connecticut? The immediate future will likely not change however there was clearly an opportunity for Pratt & Whitney management to work with the State of Connecticut to obtain the tax incentives they likely received from North Carolina but the company's choice at this point has been made.

<https://www.nccommerce.com/> wrote, "This investment will enable Pratt & Whitney to continue to modernize and transform its operations with cutting-edge technologies," said Chris Calio, president, Pratt & Whitney. "Turbine airfoils are a critical component across our engine portfolio and demand will increase significantly as the market recovers over the next several years. We need to invest today to ensure that we have the infrastructure, production capabilities and workforce in place to meet future market demand and provide the best products to our customers worldwide. We are grateful for the support provided by the State of North Carolina and the local community."

Brothers and sisters the aircraft industry ebbs and flows and when it is in a down cycle what this mean for the hard working union members in TMC is anyones guess but does not likely mean Connecticut workers will be put first. Pratt management told union leadership the Ashville plant will likely deliver its first part in the middle of 2022 and have its projected 800 hundred hourly and salary employees by 2027. Pratt & Whitney Vice President of Labor Relations Dave Powalatis disrespected union leadership when he told them the company would live up to all their contractual obligations which he knew at the time were none. It came across like a school kid rubbing something in the face of a sibling.

The current collective bargaining agreement expires May 1, 2022 just about the same time the new plant opens. Clearly the companys North Carolina plant will be discussed during negotiations and the union will be looking to preserve at a minimum the same levels of employment for this work in CT and not let your jobs disappear to North Carolina. The companys response will remain to be seen. You never understand where your going unless you understand where you have been and history has not shown Pratt & Whitney to be a company that has had the best interest of its Connecticut work force in mind as it moved work that used to be done here all over the globe.

We need to all start preparing for negotiations and we need to start now. A year and a half will go by in a blink of an eye. Those of you who are senior members have lived what Pratt is like, the court battles, the disregard for workers and the contract. Your negotiating committee always bargains for a contract they can recommend but this announcement makes it clear that the membership needs to prepare financially to be ready to fight if that's part of Pratts plan. The strength at a bargaining table comes from a mobilized financially prepared membership. Start putting money away now so you are prepared. If the contract goes smoothly you still have the money and if Pratt & Whitney forces the members hand you are prepared to do what needs to be done.

**United we negotiate...divided we beg!** The Machinists in Connecticut have a rich history of fighting if necessary, if we are all prepared for 2022 the end result will be better for all of us.