

Testa touts manufacturing at tour of Comar's new Vineland plant

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VINELAND – An imposing new manufacturing in Vineland's burgeoning industrial zone recently drew a visit from the co-chair of a legislative group focused on boosting that sector of New Jersey's economy.

State Sen. Michael Testa, R-1, was among guests last fall when plastics product manufacturer Comar broke ground for a now-complete 159,000-square-foot facility. The new site is just 15 minutes from the company's Buena facility.

Testa was back at the newly opened plant earlier this month to learn more about the manufacturing sector in South Jersey.

"It is clear this is a company that can get things done right and on time," Testa said after the tour. "This is an impressive facility that demonstrates why Comar is a leader in New Jersey's manufacturing sector."

Testa said he is proud to see "more manufacturing companies grow in South Jersey and provide young adults with new career opportunities."

"Local young adults need a viable option after high school, not just college, to learn a trade, find a manufacturing job, work with their hands, and earn a good living," he said.

A Comar representative said the company approximately has 50 openings across its Vineland and Buena plants.

Comar, which operates eight facilities in the United States, is a specialty packaging and dispensing provider. The company touts its development of innovative, industry-compliant packaging solutions.



"We have entry level positions open across several tracks: machine operators, process technicians, quality inspectors, material handlers, maintenance technicians, plant and process engineers, sales and customer service, training specialists and HR Generalists," said Comar Vice President Will Cocos.

"Comar has a program to develop and advance staff whatever their tenure," Cocos said. "We have several career tracks available, supported by a training system we call Comar U that enables employees to advance their skills in our industry."

Cocos said hiring has been a real challenge for the company but Comar was looking forward to "getting back to normal as soon as possible."

"This past year has made it very difficult for people to work, between the risks of COVID and the practical inconveniences of finding childcare," Cocos said. "The plant ultimately needs about 135 people by the end of the year. We have hired or identified, from Buena, approximately 115 of the people we need."

According to the company, Vineland was selected for a new facility because of its convenience to customers and close proximity to the Buena site. It is also where the company got its start as a glass manufacturer, first operating out of a garage in 1949.

"We ultimately liked the Vineland option the best as we thought the local labor market was as good or better than the other options we were considering," Cocos said.

"And starting a site close by one of our other sites is much less risky, in that we have a cadre of technical staff nearby and offers efficiencies in being able to share some of our technical resources," he said. "It would be much riskier and more difficult to start up a plant in a new greenfield location and it's critical we minimize risk for our customers."

A list of available jobs can be found at <https://www.comar.com/careers>.

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