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Going Global

Coliant CEO says it takes a community to grow an international brand

By Jane Peterson

Real estate is all about location, location, location. Turns out, it is also a key consideration for technology companies.

Just ask John Swiatek, CEO of Coliant Corp. An award-winning developer of Microclimate Technology clothing, Coliant's creative designs, innovative wearable technology and close proximity to Macomb County's Defense Corridor has attracted the attention of the Department of Defense and other strategic industries, including sporting goods and aerospace.

"We are located in the crown jewel of Macomb County -- the Defense Corridor. When the Defense Department called, they knew we were close to those businesses and the automotive sector," he said.

Born and raised in Macomb County, Swiatek said support from county officials helped Coliant thrive. With county and state incentives and access to the proper facility space, Coliant has grown to just over 20 employees today.

"There is a lot of talent in Macomb County," said Swiatek. "We've been able to leverage these talents at our design and manufacturing facilities in Michigan."

Coliant does business with more than 10 Fortune 500 companies and well-known industry leaders such as Harley Davidson. Among its brands are Powerlet®, LayStitch™, Luggage Electrix™, ASC Craft™ and the Atomic Skin™ brand of smart clothing. The company recently moved into a new 12,000-square-foot building at 17 Mile and Mound in Warren.

Since Coliant was formed in a basement in 2004, Swiatek has been impressed by the community support the company has received. From the resources of the Macomb OU INCubator to the regional investment in automotive jobs and assistance of Macomb County officials, he said everyone works together to drive entrepreneurship.

"Without the support of the community, there is no way Coliant would be here today," he said. "It takes a community to grow a global brand."

Coliant has shipped products into 74 countries from Macomb County.

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