



Joliet Technologies LLC is a small business located in Crest Hill. The company, in its sixth year, engineers, builds and services AC and DC Variable Speed Drive systems that vary the speed of large motors, thereby increasing efficiency and decreasing energy costs.

Programmable logic controllers (PLC's) are increasingly a requirement for most control panels that manage the sequential operation of drive systems. Currently, Joliet Technologies LLC out sources programming of the logic function, but when staff skills are fully developed, the company intends to bring the function in-house. PLC programming is not a skill set that a large number of people possess but is in high demand. Under the Business Grants for Employee Training Program administered by the Workforce Investment Board of Will County, two employees received basic PLC training through Grundy Area Vocational Center - a first step in the incremental process of developing staff capabilities in this area.

Small businesses often recognize that their staff require training but unlike large companies have limited resources to devote to staff development. Clay Johnson, Managing Partner for Joliet Technologies LLC became aware of the incumbent worker training program through an article in the *Herald News* in which County Executive Larry Walsh explained the benefits of the program. "The Business Grants for Employee Training Program helps you grow your company – making your employees more valuable and compensating them accordingly," said Clay. "By improving employee skills, we provide better service to our customers resulting in more business for us and more jobs for Will County."



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