

# DENSO in Battle Creek to Invest Over \$37 Million; Awarded Michigan Strategic Fund Grant for Up to \$687,500

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Grant will train current and future employees preparing for higher-skilled, higher-paying jobs

**BATTLE CREEK, Mich.** – Global auto supplier DENSO announced today an investment in the future – more than US\$37 million in machinery and equipment to expand automation at its DENSO Manufacturing Michigan, Inc. (DMMI) manufacturing facility in Battle Creek. The investment supports localization of component manufacturing for several customers. The Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) also awarded DENSO a performance-based grant for up to \$687,500 to train current and future employees preparing for higher skilled jobs. The grant will also provide funds for English as a second language (ESL) training with a manufacturing focus that DMMI will create and share with the community.

“The jobs DENSO offers today are significantly different than when we started production in Battle Creek 30 years ago,” said Andris Staltmanis, DMMI President. “We are excited to make this investment to train and prepare our current and future employees for these higher-skilled, higher-paying, sustainable jobs. This is a critical step to help DENSO stay competitive and we appreciate the support from the Michigan Strategic Fund.”

DMMI has created 300 Lead Associate positions, a new, skills-based production job designed to support their next generation product manufacturing. MSF funding, combined with a \$125,000 training and relocation incentive from Battle Creek Unlimited, will support both on-site training classes and formal instruction at Kellogg Community

College. Lead Associates receive more than 130 hours of formal instruction in addition to extensive on-the-job training.

“In addition to Lead Associate training, DMMI is excited to develop and share ESL training designed for manufacturing careers,” Staltmanis said. “Helping our ESL employees be more successful on the job will open pathways for them to move up in the company and realize their potential.”

Manufacturing-focused ESL curriculum will also benefit the community through partnerships with local cultural and educational institutions who will be invited to use and adapt the materials.

“A more educated community reaps benefits beyond where the employee works,” Staltmanis said. “DENSO is the largest manufacturing operation in Battle Creek, but our partners in the Fort Custer Industrial Park and other areas will also be able to access this specialized information to benefit their workforce and the broader community.”

DMMI is planning to hire 125 employees as a part of the investment and training initiative. A job fair to fill more than 60 open direct hire manufacturing and skilled trades positions will be held on Saturday, July 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their Battle Creek facility. For more information, visit <http://goo.gl/upq0Ag>.

DENSO Manufacturing Michigan, Inc. (DMMI) is the lead production facility for DENSO’s Thermal Systems North American Center (TAC) and the largest employer in Battle Creek. DMMI manufactures automotive air conditioning and engine cooling components and systems, including condensers, radiators, CRFMs (condenser, radiator, and fan modules), heater cores, evaporators and HVAC units. The DMMI campus in Battle Creek comprises more than 1,380,000 square feet of manufacturing, warehouse and administrative floor space in 6 buildings on over 100 acres of land, and is the largest facility in Fort Custer Industrial Park.

**About DENSO Corporation:**

DENSO Corp., headquartered in Kariya, Aichi prefecture, Japan, is a leading global automotive supplier of advanced technology, systems and components in the areas of thermal, powertrain control, electronics and information and safety. Its customers include all the world’s major

carmakers. Worldwide, the company has more than 200 subsidiaries and affiliates in 38 countries and regions (including Japan) and employs more than 150,000 people. Consolidated global sales for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, totaled US\$40.2 billion. Last fiscal year, DENSO spent 8.8 percent of its global consolidated sales on research and development. DENSO common stock is traded on the Tokyo and Nagoya stock exchanges. For more information, go to [www.globaldenso.com](http://www.globaldenso.com), or visit our media website at [www.globaldenso.com/en/newsreleases/media-center/](http://www.globaldenso.com/en/newsreleases/media-center/)

**About DENSO in North America:** In North America, DENSO employs more than 23,000 people at 30 consolidated companies and affiliates. Of these, 25 are manufacturing facilities located in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In the United States, DENSO employs more than 15,000 people in California, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Arkansas. DENSO's North American consolidated sales totaled US\$9.9 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. Locally, DENSO Manufacturing Michigan, Inc. (DMMI) is the lead production facility for DENSO's thermal manufacturing in North America and Battle Creek's largest employer, with 2,927 people at its Battle Creek facility. For more information, go to [www.densocorp-na.com](http://www.densocorp-na.com). Connect with us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DENSOinNorthAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/DENSOinNorthAmerica)

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