Opportunity for manufacturers nears

The Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center, which is based at UW-Stout, is spreading the word to area manufacturers about the Next Generation Rail Supply Chain initiative and a Feb. 14 forum in Chicago regarding the effort.

The program is the result of a partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Commerce. The objective of the effort is to "bring large carbuilders and OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) together with smaller, capable and interested U.S. manufacturers to facilitate reaching the goal of 100 percent domestic content in railcars that will be funded by state and federal dollars," according to its website.

The forums are a chance for smaller manufacturers to learn about what products are needed and what investments they need to consider when entering the rail industry.

Visit [http://nist.gov/mep/rail.cfm](http://nist.gov/mep/rail.cfm) for more information about the Next Generation Rail Supply Chain or contact Bill Amsrud, NWMOC project manager, at 715-432-5957 or amsrudw@uwstout.edu.