

# COMMON GROUND

SEPTEMBER 2023

## FIRST SOLAR UPDATE

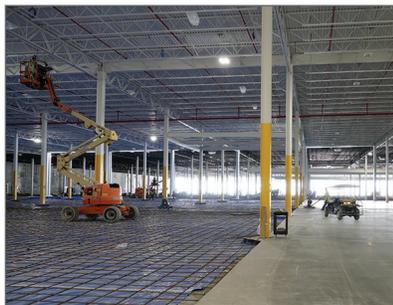
### Rudolph Libbe Group expertly handles numerous projects in three states

There's a great deal of activity from both RLI and GEM on a number of First Solar projects, including the latest one, a 2.36 million-square-foot manufacturing facility RLI will build near Lafayette, Louisiana, that was announced last month.

That design-build project (NAT-01) is scheduled to begin construction in early 2024. A completion date has not been set.

Also in the Southeast, work continues in Trinity, Alabama, on the DRT-01 project, a 2.4 million-square-foot manufacturing facility which began construction in December 2022 and is scheduled for completion in Fall 2024.

"Construction is progressing with approximately 500 trades workers currently onsite," said Project Manager **Felix Jagodzinski**. "The building structure will be completed and under roof the first week of October. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems (MEP) are in progress, office construction is underway and site finishes are starting."



*First Solar's PGT-04 project on Tracy Road is expected to be ready for tool move-in by early November.*

Project Manager **David Crozier** said 250 trades workers are onsite at First Solar's 1.6 million-square-foot facility (PGT-04) on Tracy Road in Perrysburg Township. The building structure was finished in August and the steel decking and roofing system will be completed in October. Concrete slab-on-grade was 40 percent complete in late September, while second floor office construction is in finishing stages with

final paint, ceiling fixtures and flooring progressing.

Crozier said first-floor office MEP rough-ins and drywall installation were approaching completion, as are the piping systems, which are prefabricated at the GEM Fab Shop, a major contributor to delivering the project on time. Major underground MEP work in the Central Utility Building and Wastewater Treatment Plant are complete.

"RLG is on track to meet out contractual milestones and will turn over the Production Area, about 25% of the building, to First Solar on Nov. 6 for tool move-in and be ready for energization on Nov. 24," he said. "The balance of the building is scheduled to be turned over in early Spring 2024."

There also is work happening on the two other completed First Solar plants on Tracy Road in Lake Township. At PGT-03, RLI is adding a new break room and office mezzanine to the building it finished in 2022. Work on the total

4,627-square-foot project is scheduled for completion in February.

RLI will self-perform demolition, concrete, masonry and carpentry. GEM will perform structural steel erection, plumbing, HVAC, electrical and IT/data work.

At PGT-02, a 150,000-square-foot expansion to house new manufacturing equipment is underway. RLI also will expand the parking lots at PGT-02 and PGT-03.

## A CUT ABOVE

### New laser cutter improves sheet metal shop productivity



*The sheet metal shop's laser cutter is at least twice as fast as the plasma cutter.*

With as much work as there is at the GEM sheet metal shop, a newer, faster, more efficient machine to cut metal became a necessity.

The new laser cutter is already making a difference in the shop's productivity, GEM Mechanical Project Manager **Paul Anderson** said.

"It cuts very precisely, very cleanly, and at a minimum twice as fast as our plasma cutter," he added. "We're able to increase our capabilities because of the capacity to cut larger plate."

The laser cutter can cut 26 gauge to 5/8 inch stainless steel and up to 1 inch mild steel plate. The shop is now in-sourcing jobs it once had to sub out. It will cut up to 600 inches a minute of stainless steel and one inch per second of 3/8-inch plate.

The laser cutter leaves fewer burrs and slag and is intuitive to operate. It shields workers from the 6kW laser and can perform one cut while having another sheet of material loaded for increased productivity. It is in use eight hours a day and usage will ramp up when the shop starts a second shift, Anderson said.

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## THANKS FOR THE LEADS!

Every associate who reports a new business lead is entered into a drawing for \$100 in GEM and RLI merchandise.

The next drawing is in October for leads generated in July, August and September.

New Leads: **Brad Delventhal, Vince Piscopo, Bob Briggs, Phyllis Russell, Kevin Burtchin, Becky Rygalski.**

Report your leads to:

**RLI - Shannon Deppen, ext. 3005, Shannon.Deppen@rlgbuilds.com**

**GEM - Elizabeth Hancock, ext. 2603, Elizabeth.Hancock@rlgbuilds.com**

## PROMOTED

### Congratulations!

**Nick Baer** has been promoted to vice president of GEM Inc.'s HVAC and facility management service operations. Baer began his career at RLG in 2006 as a project engineer for Site Management. He subsequently held the role of operations manager, served as the leader of the GEM Facility Management group and became general manager of the Service Group in 2010. In that time, Service has experienced unprecedented success, both as an individual department and as an important part of RLG's "Customers for Life" strategy.



In his new role, Baer will continue to lead GEM Service and Facility Management while supporting RLG leadership with long-term strategic activities.



At RLI, **William Conser** has been promoted to project manager. Conser began at RLI as a project engineer in 2021.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### RLG a top design-build contractor

Did you know RLG ranks 29th nationally in terms of total 2022 revenue for design-build firms?



That's according to Engineering News-Record, which released its Top 100 Design-Build Firms list earlier this year.

## NEW WORK AT NSG IN ROSSFORD

### RLG to convert existing furnace to produce glass for solar industry

**Rossford** — RLG has been awarded a design-build contract to convert an existing furnace at the NSG Rossford Pilkington Glass manufacturing plant so it can produce glass for the solar industry.

The work consists of building new coater process additions to the existing furnace, pollution control plants, plus substation and ancillary buildings at the facility on Dixie Highway. RLI will self-perform sitework and concrete while GEM will self-perform steel erection, piping, sheet metal, insulation, electrical and controls.

The project will be a mix of Varco-Pruden pre-engineered structures and conventional steel.

The work will occur next to a fully operational plant until July 2024. After that, one furnace will be down while the other continues to manufacture glass for the automotive industry. The converted furnace will eventually use a process that provides a new coating to the glass that is utilized in the solar industry. The work, which started earlier in September, is expected to be completed in January 2025.

The team: GEM: Estimator: **Nate Schroeder**; Lead Project Manager **Adam Schumacher**; Electrical Project Manager **Chris Burton**; Mechanical Project Manager **Bryan Darling**; Sheet Metal Project Manager **Paul Anderson**; Insulation Project Manager **James Cone**. VDC Manager **John Marshall**; Safety Specialist **Floyd Light**; Pipefitter Foreman **Matt Vineyard**; Ironworker Foreman **Kurt Rife**; Electrical Foreman **Matt Werner**. RLI: Estimators: **Travis Philo, Troy Fritch**; Project Manager **Bryan Cox**; Superintendent **Rick Turner**.

**Findlay** — GEM demolished two existing scrap cyclone support structures and fabricated and installed new steel structures for their replacements at Ball Corp.

GEM fabricated the new steel structures at our Fab Shop. GEM ironworkers installed the structures, while GEM electricians removed and relocated existing utilities. The team met an aggressive schedule, starting work in late July and finishing in late August.

The team: Project Manager **Luc Brule**; Foreman **Kurt Rife**.

**Monroe** — GEM will be the electrical subcontractor for a company installing dock doors, levelers, and overhead doors for an automotive customer.

GEM is partnering with Applied Handling on the work. GEM will perform the electrical work for 90 dock doors with levelers, eight overhead doors and one dock door with a whole truck/trailer leveler. The work, which began earlier this month, is scheduled for completion in late November.

The team: Project Manager **Charlie Korotnai**; Foreman **Rich Kulakowski**.

**Westland, Michigan** — RLI is setting two modular trailers supplied by DTE Energy at the utility's Westland Training Center.

RLI will self-perform sitework, underground utilities, and site concrete while GEM will perform plumbing work. The work began earlier this month and is expected to be completed in December.

The team: Estimator: **Bobby Tikkanen**; Project Manager: **Brian Lamerson**; Safety Specialist: **Mike Thomas**.

## WELCOME TO RLG!



Top row from left: **Jennifer Rosengarten**, Business Development Specialist, GEM Service, S.E. Michigan Operations; **AJ Szopo**, Maintenance Technician, GEM Facility Management, Walbridge; **Amanda McIntyre**, Site Line Coordinator, RL Properties, Walbridge; Second row: **Jason Moore**, Programmer/Analyst, Information Technology, RLG Walbridge; **Nick Adams**, Project Manager, RLI Walbridge.