

TENNESSEE GREEN STAR PARTNERSHIP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



By: Vaughn Cassidy

The Marelli North America Lewisburg site has supplied automotive customers for more than 30 years and currently employs more than 800 team members, making it the largest employer in Marshall County. The Marelli Lewisburg facility consists of three buildings located on an approximately 32-acre site in the Lewisburg Industrial Park. Marelli also has a Tennessee Green Star Partner facility in Shelbyville, TN. The Plastics building, which is part of the Interior Experience business unit, includes injection molding, foaming, painting, and the assembly of interior parts such as instrument panels, consoles, and gloveboxes. The Electronics building is home to both the Electric Powertrain and the Electronic Systems business units, where circuit boards to inverters and battery control units for electric vehicles are assembled. Instrument panel clusters, vehicle control modules, memory seat modules, amplifiers, and fuel sensing systems are also assembled here, in addition to through processes for chip surface mounting, wave and selective soldering, and robotic assembly.

An important milestone for the company was Calsonic Kansei's acquisition of Magneti Marelli. The company formally began operating as Marelli in 2019. The partnership between Calsonic Kansei and Magneti Marelli gave both businesses immediate access to new markets, products, people, innovation and the synthesis of technological prowess, know-how and spirit of Japan's manufacturing practices commonly referred to as *Monozukuri*. This business spirit embodies a sincere attitude toward production with pride, skill, dedication, and the pursuit of innovation and perfection. This of course also includes sustainability.

A recent sustainability report by Marelli stated, "Sustainability and responsibility will play an increasingly important role as Marelli evolves and develops as a leading independent global supplier." The Lewisburg facility has embraced this statement through every aspect of their operations.

Jennifer Norman, the environmental health and safety manager for Marelli Lewisburg, is particularly proud of several projects developed at the facility, including the reuse and reconstitution of plastic totes used each day. "Reusable totes for internal use at several Marelli locations are manufactured by our packaging group using regrind materials from scrap at the Plastics facility. An estimated 45,000 totes have been made since the program began, repurposing approximately 135,000 pounds of plastic."

FEATURED THIS MONTH

- Marelli North America Lewisburg
- Became a Green Star Partner in 2006 as Calsonic Kansei
- Employs 860 Employees

FUN FACT:

- Currently the largest single employer in Marshall County.
- Marelli North America embraces the Japanese concept of *Monozukuri*.



The Plastics and Electronics facilities at the Marelli Lewisburg site also recycle materials externally. 250,000 pounds of mixed foam and skins are recycled each year for carpet tile backing through a local recycling vendor. Last year, the Electronics and Plastics facilities repaired and recycled 25,000 pounds of wood pallets, which is a consistent waste issue faced by many industry sites.

Recycling and the safety of employees can often be achieved with the same project. Marelli Lewisburg's Electronics facility decided to re-formulate their soldering compound used in the circuit boards they manufacture. Up until two years ago, the soldering compound contained significant amounts of lead. Historically, industrial exposure to lead has been linked to brain and kidney damage. Once the decision was made to use lead-free solder, the material could then be recycled. The lead-free solder dross is sent back to the vendor for reclamation to ensure all usable content is recycled into new bar solder. Since the soldering compound was changed to a lead-free composition, 6,000 pounds have been recycled.

Energy conservation is a priority of Marelli Lewisburg as well. Ongoing initiatives to add LED lighting and variable frequency drive (VFD) motors to chillers in the Lewisburg plants are 75% complete at the Plastics facility and 50% at the Electronics facility. In the spirit of Monozukuri, there is an ongoing global energy conservation challenge to achieve the largest reductions in energy usage and generate new, creative ideas from team members for energy savings.

Marelli also strives to be a great local partner for the communities they operate within. Marelli experts from the electronics business unit visited local Westhills Elementary School and engaged with the 4th and 5th graders on the various paths to their future career and participated in the Lewisburg 2020 Trunk-or-Treat event. Marelli team members have also participated in local Angel Tree ministries and have provided much-needed school supplies for local elementary schools.

As a Tennessee Green Star Partner, Marelli Lewisburg participates in our office's annual industry surveys, webinars, and ongoing sustainable initiatives like the [Tennessee Materials Marketplace](#), an online platform that provides opportunities to Tennessee industries, businesses, and organizations to reuse materials that may otherwise be bound for the landfill.



[The Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state that are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.

DON'T FORGET YOUR
ANNUAL REPORT

We ask that TGSP members provide annual reports no later than November 15th (reporting period Oct 1, 2020 – Sept 30, 2021).

Thank you for providing metrics that support the Partnership.

[ANNUAL REPORT LINK](#)

