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Many of the largest manufacturing companies in the U.S. have joined together to launch a program aimed at helping veterans receive skills and training necessary to fill some of the estimated 600,000 high-tech manufacturing jobs that employers say they can't find qualified applicants for.

The program, called [www.getskillstowork.org](http://www.getskillstowork.org), will initially be offered in 10 cities. The manufacturers will partner with community and technology colleges in those areas to offer training and help veterans get on a faster track to certifications in areas such as electronics, welding and machining.

General Electric and a group called Military Families at Syracuse University are also

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national average.

Among the companies involved in the program are General Electric, Alcoa Inc., Boeing and Lockheed Martin. They have provided about \$6 million in initial funding.

“We have an opportunity to help veterans with extraordinary leadership capabilities better compete for good paying jobs with a long-term future,” said Jeff Immelt, General Electric’s chairman and chief executive officer.

The first class of veterans will be enrolled in January near GE Aviation’s manufacturing hub at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College in Ohio. Additional sites will open throughout 2013.

Organizers said they believed the program will help 15,000 veterans qualify for careers in manufacturing. They said manufacturing jobs pay about 27 percent more, on average, than non-manufacturing jobs.

Technology

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