BLACKSTAR SYNDICATE

BLACK STAR REPORT

THE INDUSTRIAL EXCHANGE

Utah manufacturers × aerospace & defense primes

BLACKSTAR SYNDICATE | 47G | FABTECH | UMA UTAH MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

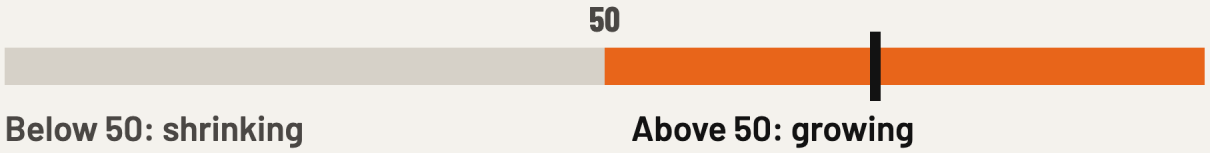
OCTOBER 29, 2026 · SALT LAKE CITY · 47G HARD TECH WEEK



THE STATE OF MANUFACTURING

FACTORIES ARE BUSY AGAIN

54.5 ISM manufacturing index, September 2026. Ninth straight month of growth.



Orders are up. New orders at 55.3, growing every month of 2026.

Hiring is up. Hiring index at 52.7, near July's four-year high.

So are costs. Prices index jumped to 77.9. PNC expects more rate hikes by spring.

UTAH IS ADDING CAPACITY

KIHOMAC · LAYTON

$36M expansion, 177 jobs averaging $93,000

KARMAN · WEST VALLEY CITY

$28.5M UAS launcher plant, 100 jobs

IMSAR · SPRINGVILLE

Tripled manufacturing space; took outside growth capital in October

More capacity means more parts to source close to home.

Sources: ISM and PNC, Oct 1, 2026 · IMSAR, Mar 3 and Oct 5, 2026 · Utah GOED, Apr 9 and Sep 10, 2026

FROM FABTECH TO UTAH

THE TEAM WE SENT TO LAS VEGAS



Elijah Taylor

MANAGING PARTNER, BLACK STAR

Go-to-market, partnerships, and government relations



Dave Wade

PARTNER, BLACK STAR

Founder, Performance Driven Marketing. U.S. Army veteran.



Troy Tucker

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, BLUE SKY BUSINESS RESOURCES

M&A, capital raises, and business transactions



Jeremy Andra

PARTNER, BLACK STAR

47G Board of Governors. Partner, The Bennett Group.



Dallin Burnett

COMMERCIAL GROWTH, MANUFACTURING

Production scale-up, dealer networks, and sales execution

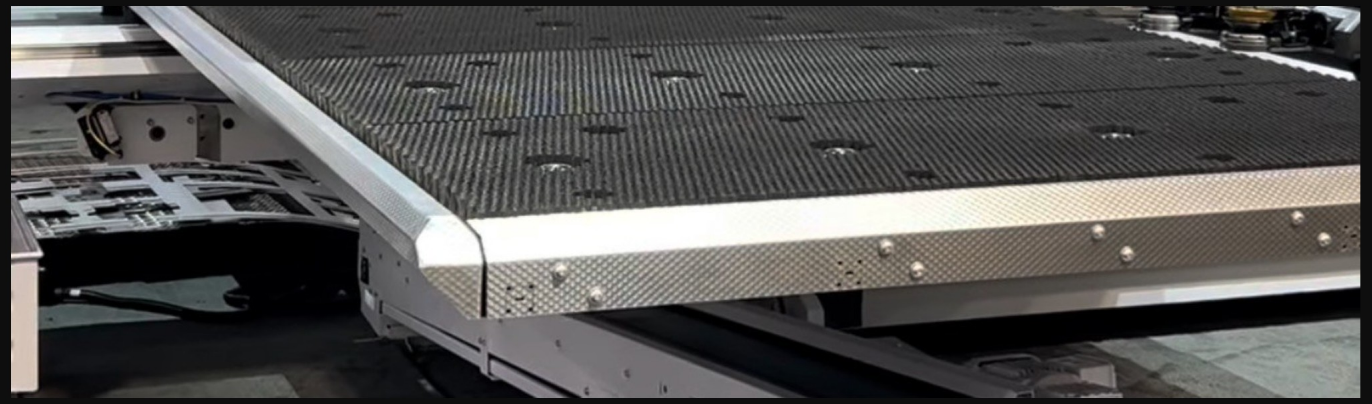
FABTECH 2026 · Las Vegas Convention Center · October 21–23 · Floor access courtesy of Revolution Machine Tools

ON THE FLOOR · LAS VEGAS

AT THE REVOLUTION MACHINE TOOLS BOOTH







Left to right: Dave Wade, Jeremy Andra, Elijah Taylor, Troy Tucker · Right: the RMT booth and automated sheet metal on the floor





FABTECH

EXPECTED: 31,000+ ATTENDEES · 1,400+ EXHIBITORS

WHO WALKS THE FLOOR

83%
influence or approve equipment purchases

54%
plan an equipment purchase in the next 12 months

40%
have equipment budgets over $200,000

47%
run job shops or contract manufacturing

32%
are owners or senior executives

55%
of companies have fewer than 50 employees

Most wanted: cutting and welding machines (45% each), bending and forming (42%), lasers (37%), robotics (32%). Buyers' top industries include aerospace, defense, and energy.

Source: FABTECH 2026 audience profile, based on past Las Vegas shows

FABTECH 2026 REPORT · LAS VEGAS · OCT 21–23

WHAT WE SAW ON THE FLOOR



01 AUTOMATION IS TAKING ON HARDER JOBS

FANUC cobots welding vertical-up on structural steel from a magnetic mount, and cells that assemble, weld, and inspect.

02 AI IS ON THE SHOP FLOOR

FANUC and Google: AI reads handwritten work orders, robot picks parts. HSG showed AI-assisted laser setup.

03 PEOPLE ARE THE BOTTLENECK

Retirements outpace new entrants, FABTECH says. Workforce filled the agenda.

04 UTAH DEMAND IS LOCAL

New plants in Layton, West Valley, Springville, and Roy need nearby suppliers.

WANT AN INTRO TO A COMPANY WE MET AT FABTECH? WE'RE HAPPY TO MAKE IT. FIND ANY OF US TODAY.

FUNDING AND POLICY WINDOWS

MONEY AND RULES ARE MOVING NOW

FEDERAL

SBIR / STTR

Reauthorized through 2031. New breakthrough awards up to $30M, matched 1:1 with new capital.

DOD OFFICE OF STRATEGIC CAPITAL

Loans for 34 critical technology areas, including advanced manufacturing.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT

Authorities expire Dec 11, 2026. A five-year reauthorization is pending in Congress.

FY27 NDAA

House bill covers small business, supply chains, and workforce. Senate still pending.

UTAH

2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Jan 19 to Mar 5. Bill and budget requests are due by Jan 29.

GOED POST-PERFORMANCE TAX CREDITS

2026 awards to KIHOMAC, Karman, and Baxter Aerospace for new jobs and investment.

UTAH APEX ACCELERATOR

Free help with registrations, bid matching, and defense cyber rules.

UTAH ELEVATED

The state's 10-year plan names aerospace, defense, and energy as areas where Utah leads.

QUESTIONS ON FEDERAL OR STATE PROGRAMS? TALK WITH ELIJAH OR JEREMY AT THE BENNETT GROUP.

BECOME A MEMBER

THE VOICE OF UTAH MANUFACTURING

UTAH MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Representing Utah manufacturers since 1905, with **1,200+ manufacturers and service providers**.

- Workforce and training programs
- OSHA-certified safety training
- Group healthcare and 401(k) plans
- Year-round advocacy at the Capitol

JOIN · MANUFACTURINGUTAH.COM



Source: Utah Manufacturers Association, manufacturingutah.com

BECOME A MEMBER

WHERE UTAH'S HARD TECH COMES TOGETHER

47G

Utah's aerospace, defense, and hard tech association. Merged with UAMMI in 2024 to bring advanced materials and manufacturing under one roof.

~19% of Utah GDP

and nearly 500,000 jobs tied to aerospace, defense, and security (2023 data)

JOIN · 47G.ORG



NEXT STOP: WE WALK OVER TO THE 47G ZERO GRAVITY SUMMIT TOGETHER