



State of California

Employment Training Panel

CASE STUDY

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

Abbott Diabetes Care

Founded in 2004, and based in Alameda, Abbott Diabetes Care develops and manufactures several glucose monitoring systems and test strips for use in both home and hospital settings. These products help reduce the discomfort and inconvenience of blood glucose monitoring, are easier to use, require less blood, and provide faster results. Company representatives report that final FDA approval is expected later this year for the FreeStyle Navigator™ system designed to monitor glucose levels every 60 seconds through a patch worn on the arm or abdomen. The sensor transmits results to a wireless receiver that can be placed in a pocket or purse or worn on a belt.

Since its inception, Abbott Diabetes Care has grown from 300 to 625 full-time workers. With the recent introduction of new products, the company has recognized the need to improve design cycles, reduce factory ramp time, and increase product quality, and has set a 2007 goal to build on the success on its continuous improvement program by implementing the next stages of its quality measurement and analysis processes and tools.

With a new ETP contract contributing \$495,000, Abbott Diabetes Care will be able to provide additional training to 500 workers, as well as deliver courses in professional and management development that would not otherwise have been available. The current contract continues the training outlined in its first ETP Agreement which supported the company's expansion in Alameda and included Advanced Technology (AT) training. A culture of continuous learning is being established across the organization through the company's skills mandate, ETP funding helping to establish a formal training and development program, and the workers willingness to embrace this opportunity to improve their knowledge and productivity.

“The primary objective in seeking ETP training funds was to develop employee skills enabling them to adapt to changing business requirements and to improve their productivity. By addressing the gap between the availability of skilled workers and the knowledge requirements of the medical device workplace, ETP is helping strengthen our current workforce through education and development.”

**Tony Crea, Director Business HR
Abbott Diabetes Care**