



Rhode Island's Knowledge Economy

Consumer Products & Design



The success of individual firms, institutions and individuals that comprise the local design community have already established Providence and Rhode Island as a regional center of industrial and product design. The state is home to world-renowned consumer product sector companies including CVS, Hasbro, AT Cross, Swarovski, Tiffany & Co. and Autocrat.

Rhode Island's jewelry manufacturing industry is home to more than 500 companies engaged in all parts of the jewelry supply chain. The state is also home to the Manufacturing Jewelers and Suppliers of America.

The state's textile industry has transformed itself from old-world mills into innovative new product manufacturers creating high value-added products such as medical substrates and roofing materials for military vehicles.

The state's size and diverse population of more than 1 million make Rhode Island an ideal location to test new products and business models. Relevant assets including Rhode Island School of Design, Brown University and others serve to position Providence and Rhode Island as a global product, information and services design capital that has international reach and impact.

Fast facts:

- *Average wage for the consumer products industry is \$45,621.*
- *Total wages for the consumer products industry exceed \$825 million.*
- *Consumer Product companies employ more than 18,000 people in RI.*

Consumer Product & Design Success Stories



NuLabel Technologies, Inc. is a high-tech adhesive and printer hardware company developing innovative label platforms to help companies cut cost and reduce waste. NuLabel has developed patent pending liner-free label technology that uses an activateable adhesive to eliminate the need for the liner.

NuLabel's liner-free labels cost significantly less than lined labels, double printing capacity, boost employee productivity, reduce storage and freight costs, and eliminate waste. Companies consumed over 2 Trillion labels last year and spend billions a year on shipping/bar code labels, food/beverage/consumer products labels, and pharmaceutical labels.

NuLabel's management team consists of three Brown University graduates with experience in manufacturing and design, biomaterials, polymer science, mechanical engineering. NuLabel's advisors include: two former printer manufacturer executives, a Brown University polymer science professor, and the former manager of global alliances at a Fortune 500 company.

The Corporate Marketplace Inc



Located in North Kingstown, The Corporate Marketplace Inc (TCMPi) produces software to online buyers and sellers, allowing them to complete transactions on the web without a third party. Before TCMPi's software, some transactions (such as corporate rewards and incentives) could take months. The local company's software has helped millions of buyers and sellers reduce the transaction time to mere minutes.

Company founder Chris Crawford and his team at TCMPi spent long hours writing their own software, which seamlessly conducts transactions between buyers and sellers. The company also scored big when they landed an agreement with Amazon.com. When Amazon launched a jewelry section five years ago, they came to TCMPi for the company's impressive software capabilities. TCMPi accesses the Amazon system every few minutes, takes down jewelry orders and distributes the orders to 42 different jewelry manufacturers.

Today, Crawford and his 20-plus employees oversee more than 1 million transactions a day and are enjoying exponential growth. TCMPi earned recognition on the INC 5000 list of fastest growing companies in the country three consecutive years in a row, and in 2007 were ranked the 8th fastest growing software company in the country, and 73rd fastest growing company in all combined categories in the country.