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For immediate release

Ohio Representative Marlene Anielski (District 17), Solon Mayor Susan Drucker, Solon Councilman Ed Kraus, Economic Development Manager Peggy Weil Dorfman, several members of the Solon Tax Incentive Review Council, and Solon Chamber of Commerce President Nancy Traum visited the new Solon, OH headquarters of Pile Dynamics, Inc. (PDI) on Wednesday, October 26th.

PDI and its sister company, GRL Engineers, Inc., moved to their present 41,000 square foot headquarters in Solon in 2010, after a quarter century in a much smaller space. The company retrofitted a 1970s structure and turned it into a remarkably airy and bright space for its almost 60 employees.



The visitors listened to presentations by Frank Rausche, PhD, PE, and Garland Likins, PE, founders of the two companies. They recalled how Pile Dynamics went from a 1960s research project at then Case Institute of Technology to a manufacturer of electronic instruments that is the most important world player in the field of quality assurance and quality control for deep building foundations. Its sister company GRL Engineers started providing foundation testing services in Northeast Ohio projects such as the Valley View bridge, and now not only serves the entire US through 8 offices in addition to its Cleveland headquarters, but is frequently tapped for special deep foundation testing projects around the world.

Alan R. Burge, AIA, principal of Alan R. Burge Architecture, discussed how he incorporated elements related to the activities of the companies in the design features of the building: The columns in front of the structure mimic foundation piles reaching rock layers at different depths; patterns on the decorative concrete floors replicate wave patterns (the testing instruments built by Pile Dynamics use wave propagation theory to deliver answers about foundation capacity and quality). The “wave” theme is also seen on the various pieces of artwork that decorate the space.

Historic Preservation Specialist and LEED Project Administrator Yolita E. Rausche, M. of Arch. AIA Assoc., described the multiple considerations that went into minimizing construction waste and maximizing the potential of the building, while aiming to make it healthy and energy efficient. LEED certification is pending.

The group concluded the morning visit with a building tour, and company executives thanked the City of Solon for their help and support with both the financing and construction process.