



Company: OptiPro Systems
Headquarters: 6368 Dean Pkwy.
Ontario, N.Y. 14519
Year Founded: 1982
Total Number of Employees: 85
CEO/President: Michael Bechtold
Web site: www.optipro.com

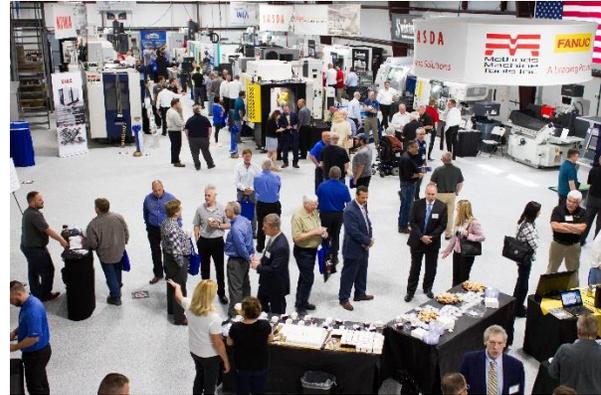
Rochester-based activities and developments:

Headquartered in Ontario, NY, about 15 minutes east of Rochester, OptiPro Systems has been providing precision machine tools and Mastercam software for New York state manufacturing companies since 1982. Always at the forefront of innovation, OptiPro leveraged their knowledge of computer aided manufacturing to become a global leader in designing and building computer numerically controlled (CNC) machines and metrology systems for the precision optics and advanced ceramics industries. OptiPro's products include CNC grinding, polishing, and measuring equipment for manufacturing plano, spherical, aspheric, freeform, and other optical components. In addition, the OptiSonic™ Series utilizes the latest ultrasonic



machining technology for faster and easier production of technical ceramic components.

Supplying advanced metalworking equipment and CAD/CAM software to New York State manufacturing companies is the foundation upon which OptiPro was built. Today, OptiPro is New York State's premier machine tool tech center and knowledge base. The company distributes the world's finest machine tools, including Fanuc, Nakamura-Tome, Yasda, and KIWA. OptiPro is also the first reseller of Mastercam, the #1 CAM software in the world.



In 1991, OptiPro was asked by the University of Rochester and the [American Precision Optics Manufacturers Association](#) (APOMA) to design an affordable CNC lens grinding machines for precision optics. The company was recognized with the Paul F. Forman Excellence award in engineering for commercializing the first affordable computerized optical grinding machine in the world. OptiPro has developed other machines in their product portfolio in collaboration with local businesses, including Lumetrics, Optimax Systems, Corning Tropel, and Rochester Precision Optics. Today, OptiPro offers over 25 different commercially available solutions for manufacturing and measuring precision optics and technical ceramic components.

President Mike Bechtold, along with his brother, Bob, began OptiPro in 1982 and as the company grew, they moved the business in 1984 to rented space on Route 104 in Ontario, NY. The company would remain there until 1998 when they built a 12,500 sq. ft. facility nearby in Ontario. Since then, OptiPro has added on three facility expansions in 2011, 2014, and 2019, increasing their office and manufacturing space to 60,000+ sq. ft.

OptiPro's team grew very gradually from 2 people when the company was founded to 34 team members in 2012. Just one year later, OptiPro's team nearly doubled to 65 employees in 2013 and has since grown to a current team of 85+ Machinists, Opticians, Machine Build Technicians, Service Technicians, Electrical Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Software Engineers, Sales and Managers.

Why Rochester?

Rochester is home to some of the finest optics companies in the nation, almost all of which OptiPro does business with. By engaging in a positive business relationship with local optics companies, OptiPro is able to utilize the feedback being offered by these companies to continuously improve the optical fabrication equipment it manufactures, thus allowing its potential and existing customers to produce optical components to their exact specifications.

Since its inception, OptiPro Systems has participated in numerous aspects of the Rochester and Wayne County communities.

OptiPro is a founding member of the [Finger Lakes Advanced Manufacturers' Enterprise \(FAME\)](#), which is a collaborative public/private partnership of regional stakeholders dedicated to building workforce talent in advanced manufacturing. The company is also a major sponsor for all [Rochester Technology and Manufacturing Association \(RTMA\)](#) events and projects with the goal of strengthening the organization's size and impact on the local economy.

OptiPro frequently provides tours and presentations to local teachers, administrators, and students to grow excitement about high tech manufacturing jobs and opportunities to future workforce talent. In addition, OptiPro supports local high schools with funding and manufacturing assistance for FIRST Robotics and other after school STEM programs. OptiPro offers shadowing opportunities for students at local high schools and colleges and works with local/national colleges and universities by supplying equipment and resources for advancing education and partnering on R&D projects. Some of the educational institutions OptiPro collaborates with include:

- University of Rochester
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Monroe Community College
- Finger Lakes Community College
- University of North Carolina Charlotte
- Penn State Electro-Optics Center

OptiPro also partnered with Monroe Community College to offer a course titled Advanced Optical Manufacturing, which is taught at OptiPro's facility by OptiPro employees. OptiPro wants to emphasize the importance of technical fields for Rochester, NY students and provide them with every opportunity possible to learn and understand this high-tech career path.

OptiPro's local volunteering efforts include management of the WNY Optics Golf Tournament in Rochester, NY which benefits the Golisano Children's Hospital. This very important fundraiser has raised over \$250,000 in its 20-year history.