

Amy Neff Roth
aroth@uticaod.com

Danfoss begins shipping power modules



MARCY — Danfoss Silicon Power begun shipping products out of its facility on the SUNY Polytechnic Institute Campus in Marcy within the past week.

"It took a lot to get there, but we're up and running," said General Manager Michael Hennessey.

The products are Econoline power modules.

"It works with a water pump," Hennessey said. "What it does, it allows it to use about 30 percent less electricity."

The modules are being shipped to a subcontractor for further assembly after which they'll be shipped to another Danfoss facility for sale, Hennessey said.

The modules go to Texas and are then taken over the border to Mexico where the assembly takes place, he said. The shipments started about the same time that President Donald Trump began talking about shutting down the southern border in reaction to the tide of migrants seeking asylum in the United States.

Danfoss is also working on qualification for a second production line that should start shipping later this year, Hennessey said. Qualification should take four or five months, he said.

"We make sure that the processes and the equipment are running repeatedly and giving us the quality product and they're in statistical control," he said, explaining qualification.

The plant also does accelerated life testing to make sure the samples demonstrate the expected viability, he said.

"You do it a lot more thoroughly when you're first starting out," he said.

A third manufacturing line is also in the works, and the plant plans to eventually add a fourth line, Hennessey said.

Danfoss currently employs about 30 people in Marcy, but will likely add about 20 logistics and manufacturing associates this year, he said.

"All the naysayers that said it would never happen," Hennessey said, "you can say it did."