



MEDIA RELEASE

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Small Business Series Features Volunteer Aerospace

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviewed Rachel Jones, co-founder of Volunteer Aerospace on Schaeffer Road, as part of his latest video series highlighting small businesses.

When the series began, the Mayor conducted interviews with small business owners and operators, providing them the opportunity to talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their families and employees and helping them share any plans they hold for the future.

The Mayor's discussion with Jones, however, focuses on the woman-owned business that started in 2016 to advance additive manufacturing and offer customers solutions that were not available in the marketplace.

The company now services multiple industries, offering qualified production hardware, engineering solutions and material qualification. The company operates multiple direct metal laser melting machines, including EOS M290s, an X-Line 1000, and an X-Line 2000.

The Mayor noted that when most people think about 3-D printing, they think about polymers, or plastics, but Volunteer Aerospace is different.

"3-D printing is really a buzz word and it encompasses so many different areas, so the specific type of additive manufacturing that we do is called laser powder bed," Jones said. "So, with that we have a metal powder. A laser turns on and it melts whatever the computer is telling it to melt. It sinks down, it brushes the powder and then it does it all over again. As we're going, we're building the base down and then you're able to bring it up and the part is within the powder."

She said the parts are hollow but "we still want very sound, solid parts." The weight reduction also provides an advantage, particularly when used in space.

Jones also talked about the economy; how Knox County is on the forefront of manufacturing; and how to get into and work in her line of business.

A new vignette runs each week on the county and Mayor's various social media platforms. To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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