MDI wins Hibbing’s 2019 Business of the Year award

BY ERIC KIILELLA HERALD-DAILY TRIBUNE

HIBBING — Min-
nesota’s largest solar
energy company has
expanded its reach after
evoking its building
from a group of non-
profit solar energy orga-
nizations.

The 36,000-square-
foot location was
opened in 2015, and
MDI has since pro-
duced more than $100
million in sales.

The company received
the Business of the
Year award at a dinner
during the association’s
114th annual meeting.

Lory Fedo, retired
Executive Director of
the Hibbing Area
Chamber of Com-
merce, publicly
recognized such efforts.

“MDI has become
a vital part of our
community,” Fedo said.

With 196 jobs, the
company increased
its paid hourly wages
to $16 per hour this
year.

“MDI is not only
known for its employ-
ees with disabilities who
have achieved great
success, but also for
their commitment to
the Hibbing area,” Fedo
said.

The company works
to support careers
for people with disabili-
ties.”

Kelley added that so-
lar-related jobs in
Minnesota Diversified
Industries expanded its
workforce to 600
employees throughout
the state.

The company’s
involvement in
grandrapidsmn.com

Grants focused on
catalyzing economic
development and
people with disabilities
have helped Minnesota
double solar installa-
tion, operations and
project development,
from 1,995 in 2015 to
12,000 in 2019.

SOLAR

prices, technological
innovation, rising demand
from both consumers
and businesses, and
forward-looking public
policies.

MDI broke ground on
a business. To have that
commitment is at all
levels, the long-term
outlook for this industry
remains positive as even
more Americans turn
to low-cost solar energy
and storage solutions
to power their homes and
businesses.

The National Solar
Job Census has
more than 1,000
people placed at jobs
since it was first
published. MDI has
received over the past
four years.

However, it will
take much more leadership
at the federal, state and
local levels to solidify
growth and address the
unemployment rate of dif-
ferent communities.

Expanding solar
prices will likely
impact across the
country.

The Solar Foundation,
solar job growth
spurred national
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