



**Derek DeGeest
President, LestaUSA**

As the third-generation president of DeGeest Steel Works, Derek DeGeest knows about complex and large volume steel weldments.

But it's his vision for the future that quickly led to the company becoming a technology leader through software development, data analytics, automation, and the use of robotics throughout the manufacturing process.

Leveraging this robotic and software experience, Derek is now also the President of LestaUSA after forming a partnership with Lesta Srl to become the sole distributor, integrator and manufacturer of Lesta self-learning robotic finishing technology in the United States.

Derek is active in the community and is a vocal advocate for his industry, partnering with area technical colleges and high schools to encourage young people to choose rewarding careers in manufacturing and to develop the skills they need to succeed. Derek was recently recognized by South Dakota Manufacturing & Technology Solutions for his 3rd year participating in the "What's So Cool About Manufacturing" program.

In 2019, Derek was recognized in Washington D.C. as the Small Business Administration (SBA) Small Business Person of the Year for South Dakota.

“LestaUSA is about working together to provide turnkey robotic solutions. This technology addresses the struggles everyone has and will improve the finishing industry for U.S. manufacturers.”