AMERICA'S SBDC CALIFORNIA
SAN DIEGO AND IMPERIAL NETWORK

Success Story

We Help Businesses Start, Grow & Get Financing

VetPowered, LLC

Economic Impact

- Capital infusion
- New and sustained jobs
- Increased sales

Location

San Diego, CA 92133

SBDC's Assistance

- 1:1 business advising
- 8(a) certification obtained

"The SBDC and SBA have proven to be our battle-tested partners in our quest to overcome some extremely challenging situations."

– Hernán Luis y Prado, President

VETPOWERED est. 2009

Business Story Summary

Service–disabled veteran Hernán Luis y Prado sold everything he and his wife owned to start VetPowered and provide America with advanced manufacturing as well as veterans with training and jobs. Gross sales hit the millions, and he says he should be a poster child for the SBA because VetPowered wouldn't be in business without the SBA and its resource partners like the SBDC.

Hernán started VetPowered to fund a nonprofit that would lessen the challenging transition from military service to finding a fair wage-paying career. The nonprofit “Workshops for Warriors” prepares veterans and wounded warriors for advanced manufacturing careers.

VetPowered secured 504 and 7(a) SBA loans to purchase their first manufacturing facility in San Diego's Barrio Logan neighborhood. Sales and credit grew, and they were able to secure a private loan. They later earned 8(a) certification, which helped them increase their sales drastically.

When the pandemic hit, VetPowered had to shut down. Yet Hernán rallied and started pivoting with the SBDC and SBA's help. He was able to obtain an EIDL loan, two grants and two PPP loans. He received assistance to refinance business debt and purchased space for a training center, corporate office, and other facilities. They now own 145,000 sq. ft. of space spanning five city blocks in Barrio Logan, a HUBZone.

Hernán brought all his employees back to work and hired two new ones. He transitioned training events online as well as redesigned the website for selling products and services. VetPowered also created a new division manufacturing and selling VetPowered branded parts online. Plus Hernán purchased three properties in 18 months; these included an apartment building to house evicted employees and workshop attendees as well as a restaurant, which he turned into a commissary for feeding employees, attendees, and neighborhood residents. This veteran is a visionary as well as an award-winning leader, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

Learn more about this inspiring business at vetpowered.com!

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