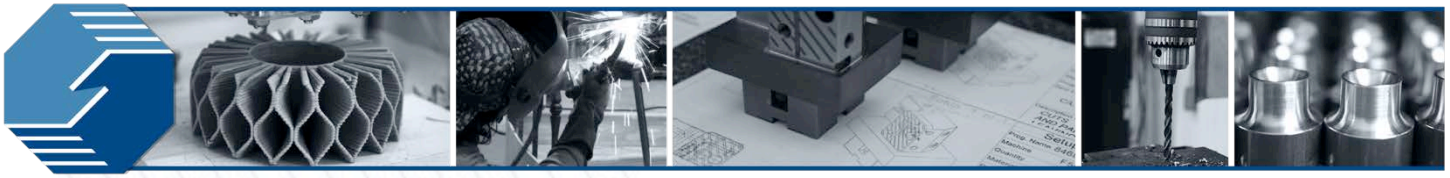

MAKING AN IMPACT ON U.S. MANUFACTURING

MEP Manufacturing Technology Acceleration Center (M-TAC) Pilot Project: Defense / Aerospace Supply Chain M-TAC

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) serves a vital and diverse role as a nationwide provider of hands-on technical and business assistance supporting the development and competitiveness of manufacturing supply chains.

To help small U.S. manufacturers grow and compete within specific supply chains, MEP is operating a series of Manufacturing Technology Acceleration Center (M-TAC) pilot projects in 2014 and 2015. MEP's M-TAC projects focus on understanding the technological needs and trends of specific supply chains, and in turn providing assistance to small manufacturers to help them adopt, adapt, and integrate appropriate technologies into their business.

The MEP M-TAC projects bring together teams of experts in specific technology and supply chain areas to offer small manufacturers an array of services and deep expertise relating to technology acceleration, transition, and commercialization – within the context of specific supply chains. The M-TAC pilot projects identify where manufacturers most need assistance in adopting or adapting technology. The projects also test and demonstrate business models that will allow small manufacturers to access the technology transition and commercialization services they need to most effectively compete within those supply chain markets.

The **Defense / Aerospace Supply Chain M-TAC** project is led by the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC), and MEP Center project partners include all seven of TMAC's MEP service locations. The project is working with multiple Defense/Aerospace-related innovation ecosystems in Texas. It is identifying ecosystem gaps and strategies to fill those gaps, and mapping differentiated research, advanced technology, and intellectual property resources for Defense/Aerospace and related supply chains within Texas.

A goal of **the Defense / Aerospace Supply Chain M-TAC** project is to provide an array of technical assistance to high-potential manufacturers – those identified by the project as fast growing companies or those that possess the attributes to become fast growing – as participants in these Defense/Aerospace supply chains. This project is:

- Identifying critical needs of aerospace and related industries
- Identifying differentiating technologies for regional advantage
- Engaging with primes, as well as lower tier suppliers
- Identifying and engaging with fast / poised to be fast growing manufacturing companies
- Delivering technology transition and commercialization services to targeted manufacturers within the supply chain
- Concurrently assessing and working to enhance the regional innovation ecosystem
- Refining the MEP outreach approach, value proposition, and manufacturer service delivery model

Additional information about MEP's M-TAC Pilot Projects, including specific info about the Defense / Aerospace Supply Chain M-TAC project, can be obtained from NIST MEP by contacting David Stieren at david.stieren@nist.gov