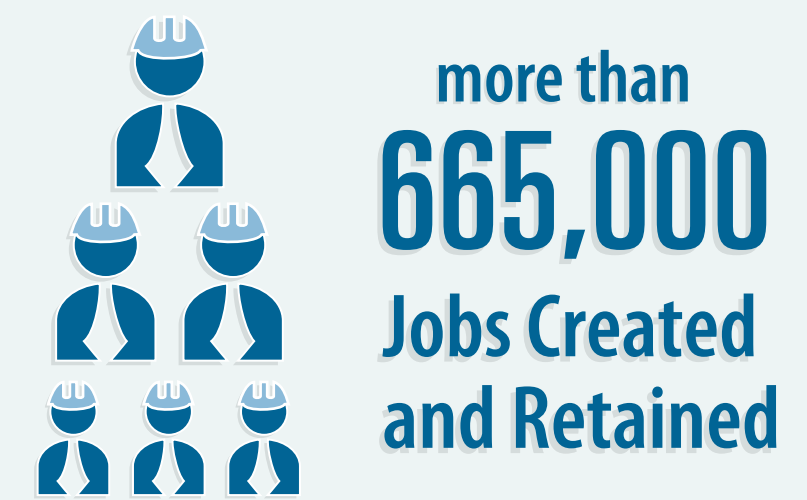
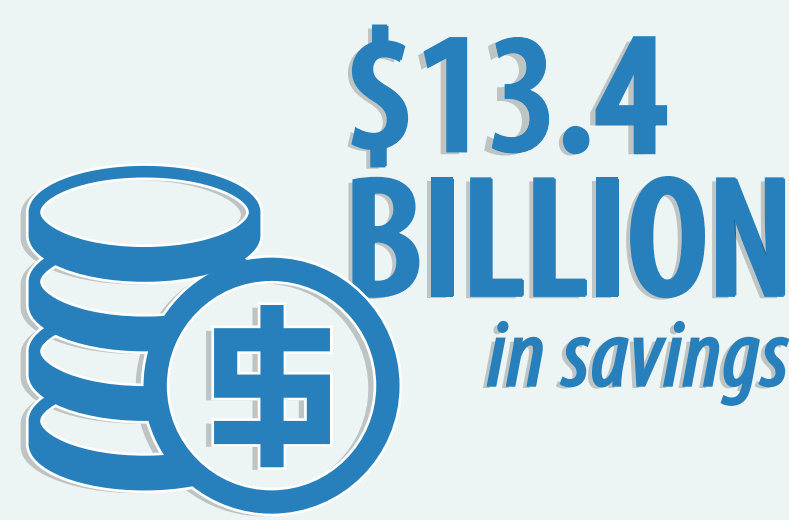


A RESOURCE FOR MANUFACTURERS

Evolution of the Global Economy, Manufacturing, and MEP

The National Institute of Standards & Technology's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) works with U.S. manufacturers to help them grow, become globally competitive and more profitable!

Since 1988, the MEP nationwide network has helped thousands of manufacturers reinvent themselves, increase profits, create jobs and establish a foundation for long term growth and productivity:



THE EVOLVING ROLE OF THE MEP PROGRAM IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

While U.S. manufacturing is constantly being shaped by globalization and the ever changing economic situations, The MEP system continually evolves to support American manufacturing and help U.S. manufacturers grow and succeed.

GLOBAL ECONOMY

FOREIGN COMPETITIVENESS



- U.S. faces challenges as foreign manufacturing competitors emerge
- International dynamics change as the Berlin wall falls, opening Eastern Europe to the world market

NEW TECHNOLOGIES



- The technology boom and Internet change how businesses communicate
- Global marketplace introduces low cost foreign competition

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN



- Rapid globalization, European unification, and natural disasters impact U.S. manufacturing
- U.S. manufacturers respond to economic downturn

MEP SYSTEM

A NEW INDUSTRY RESOURCE

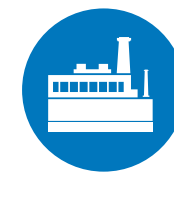
Congress passes Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act 1988, creating MEP, a program geared to help U.S. manufacturers



MEP starts working with companies to address production needs and adopt Quality Management Systems

BUILDING A NATIONAL NETWORK

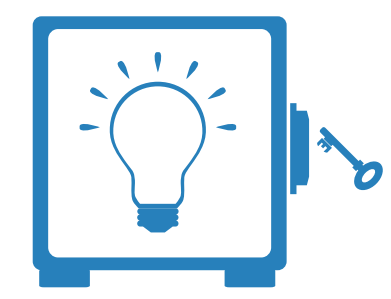
The Program works to build a national system of MEP Centers in all 50 states & Puerto Rico



MEP helps manufacturers embrace lean principles, continuous improvement, and plant layout services

INNOVATING FOR GROWTH

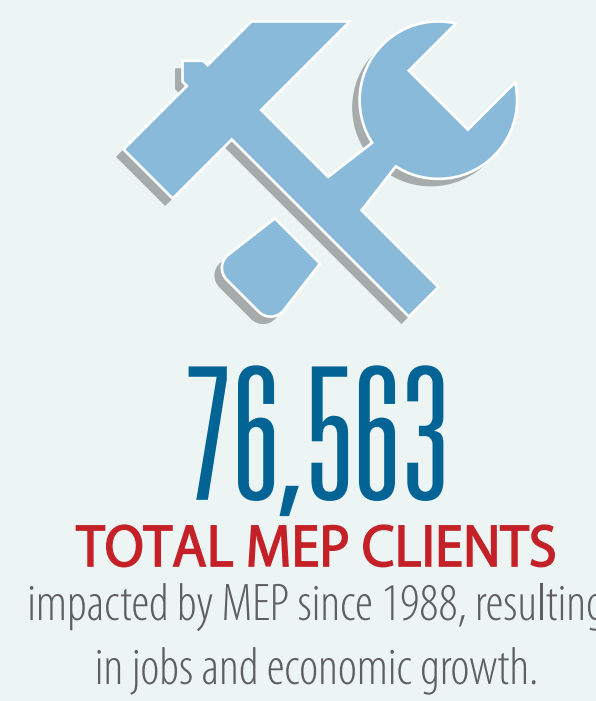
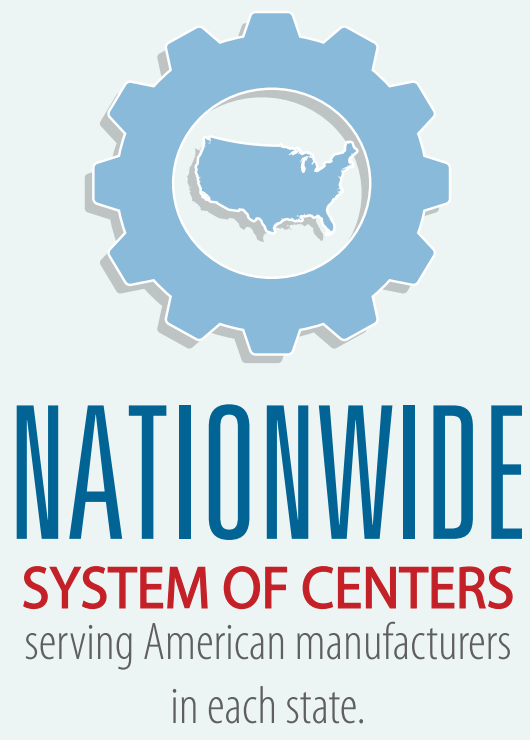
MEP provides manufacturers with an innovative framework focused on growth strategies to address challenges and foster growth



MEP program expands services to help companies focus on expanding markets and strategic planning

MEP SYSTEM TODAY

MEP remains a valued program of the U.S. Department of Commerce and continues to help manufacturers become more innovative, profitable and globally competitive.

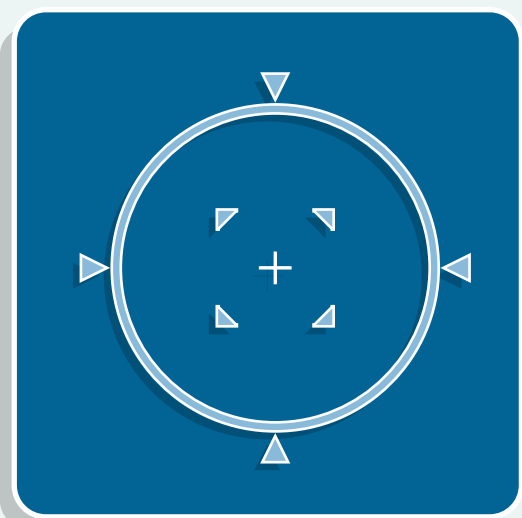


As the global economy continues to evolve, the MEP nationwide network strengthens the U.S. manufacturing community by:



FORGING

partnerships with other agencies for increased funding opportunities



EMPHASIZING

the importance of U.S. manufacturing to the economy



IDENTIFYING

emerging and expanded opportunities for American manufacturers



Exporting programs help manufacturers enter foreign markets and increase international sales



Sustainability programs guide manufacturers on "going green" in response to environmental changes



Make It In America highlights the importance of U.S. manufacturing by showcasing the contributions of manufacturers nationwide



National Manufacturing Day highlights the exciting and diverse career opportunities in manufacturing to youth



Initiatives help manufacturers with supply chain effectiveness and leverage technological enhancements



Helping clients build a strong future for their businesses, workers and the nation

Proudly Serving U.S. Manufacturers since 1988!

After 25 years, MEP is going strong and still innovating, developing new programs and services to help manufacturers grow and succeed in the 21st century economy.

- REFERENCES -

National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Association of Manufacturers, National Science Foundation, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

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