

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 1:51 PM

To: meprfi <meprfi@nist.gov>; [REDACTED]

Subject: MEP Competitive Awards Program RFI Responses

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Across all 5 categories, development of additional service providers to manufacturers is highly desirable. For example, automation is necessary to future growth. Recent investigations toward finding companies that provide automation solutions leads us outside of New England in many cases.

On the topic of automation, in particular, we are a high-tech small-medium business. Continued growth requires sophisticated automation. Sophistication tends to come with scale and we find that many providers of the technology we need are only interested in much larger jobs.

In the supply chain realm, we have many good machine shops that can do high precision. However, we have to go outside of the state for quick-turn work.

Supply of high-tech manufacturing technicians is a huge need. Supply of engineering resources outside of Chittenden is also very challenging.

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