

# MEP PROGRAM AND NIST

## BY THE NUMBERS

**12.3 million**

People are employed in U.S. manufacturing  
(Bureau of Labor Statistics)



**29,101**

Manufacturers were helped by MEP centers in FY 2015

**1,250**

Local MEP technical experts help solve manufacturers' challenges



**2,600**

Events were held across the U.S. to celebrate Manufacturing Day 2015



Small and medium-size manufacturers represent nearly 99 percent of manufacturing firms in the United States and form the essential fabric of the country's manufacturing infrastructure. A strong manufacturing base means more well-paying jobs and an expanding middle class, a reduced trade deficit, and accelerated innovation to drive future growth. With a continual need to cut costs, improve quality, meet environmental and international standards, and get to market faster, smaller companies need access to technical expertise and training to help them overcome challenges and embrace opportunities to innovate and grow.

## What NIST Does

Through collaborations at the federal, state and local level, NIST's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) puts manufacturers in a position to develop new products and customers, expand into global markets, adopt new technology, reshore production, and more. MEP partners with other organizations and participates in federal and state initiatives designed to advance the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing, expanding the program's impact beyond individual firms to entire industry supply chains, manufacturing communities, and innovation ecosystems.

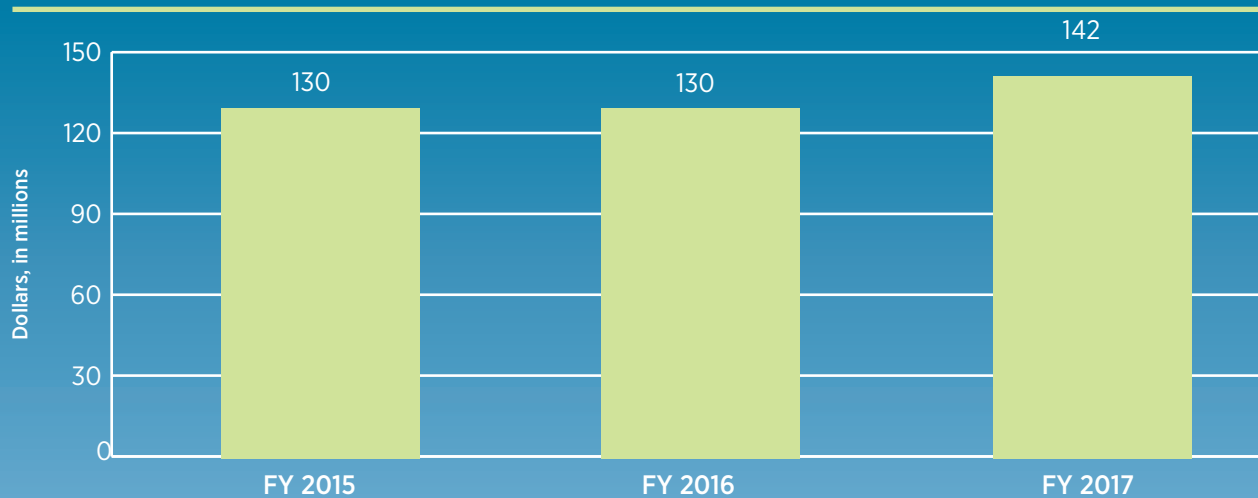
## Program Goals

- Enhance the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.
- Foster partnerships at the federal, state and local levels to leverage resources and opportunities for manufacturers.
- Serve as a voice to, and a voice for, manufacturers.
- Develop MEP capabilities as an organization focused on learning and sharing knowledge.

## Recent Program Highlights

- As a result of MEP services, manufacturers reported \$8 billion in new and retained sales, \$3.1 billion in new investments, \$3.2 billion in cost savings, and over 68,000 jobs created or retained in fiscal year 2015.
- MEP has awarded approximately \$57 million to 20 states as part of a multiyear competition for new center agreements designed to ensure federal funds are allocated to areas with higher concentrations of manufacturers.
- Manufacturing Day 2015 was celebrated with about 2,600 events nationwide. A survey by Deloitte showed the events had a positive impact on perceptions of manufacturing: 81 percent of student respondents said they were more convinced that manufacturing provides interesting, rewarding careers, and 90 percent of participating educators said they were more likely to encourage students to pursue a career in manufacturing.
- MEP has engaged 76 clients in Supply Chain Optimization projects that have led to a reported \$24.2 million in increased/retained sales, nearly \$32 million in cost savings, and \$2.2 million in new investments.

## Budget



## New for FY 2017

The request includes a total increase of \$12 million for MEP to:

- Complete a competition to award new cooperative agreements for the nation's MEP centers, to enhance local flexibility and accountability.
- Provide additional manufacturers with the tools and services needed to respond to rapid global changes that create opportunities for growth.
- Increase focus on serving very small, rural and start-up companies, as well as the maker community.
- Transfer results of the R&D activities at the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation institutes to smaller manufacturers and connect those manufacturers with business opportunities.
- Develop increased capabilities to assist all growth-oriented small manufacturers to respond to critical national needs and take advantage of emerging opportunities.