

Sent: Monday, January 09, 2017 8:51 AM

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

Subject: MEP Competitive Awards Program RFI Responses

To Whom it May Concern:

Here are some challenge areas that I hear are important to various Vermont manufacturers that I have talked to. Hopefully this will help you to prepare a 2017 federal funding opportunity to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems.

1. Critical manufacturing technologies

Assist to build a communications network on the manufacturing floor and securely interface it with the existing office network

Assist with wireless communications throughout the enterprise footprint

Assist to secure intellectual property through regular vulnerability assessments. Build a standard in this area similar to the PCI standard or use the 1071 standard from the IPC - Association Connecting Electronics Industries® (Our firm was paid to help build and test this standard at several manufacturing firms in the Midwest.

Assist to implement sensor technology at various locations throughout the plant.

Accelerate this process to improve advanced warning for failures and to gather data to improve operations.

Assist to implement Robotics to further automate the production process

2. Supply chain

Assist to set up communications systems with their supply chain

3. Potential business services, including information services

Assist to set up or expand the use of ERP systems to streamline key functions. Many have installed and use only the base modules but need help implementing further functions.

4. Other technologies or services that would enhance global competition

Assist to implement automated language translation services.

5. Recommendations for other current or emerging critical issues that NIST should consider in strategic planning for future MEP investments.

Assist to use Big Data to gain insights around their customers and products

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]