

Diane:

Thanks for your interest in our perspectives on M-TACs. We enclose our comments to one of your items. The comment also hints to at least one of your other themes.

- (1) Technology transition and commercialization tools and services that should be provided by M-TACs.

M-TACs have the potential to bridge the gap between academic and industrial research, and use the deployment of such research to stimulate innovation and growth in manufacturing. For one, they must have the human cadres to survey, assess and position technologies coming out of the research labs. Key requirements are in-depth knowledge of the science and technology behind such research and the state of development of what is coming out of those fields. Likewise a sense of the potential for commercialization and instructive communication must be part of the skill set of these centers in order to qualify the likelihood of market potential and success. Any software tools that can assist in developing and evaluating business cases and simulating the scientific principles and advantages behind them, are definitely relevant.

MEP's direct contact with manufacturing and its immediate concerns and actionable strategic plans provides practitioner perspective and focus to the two way communication exchange that must take place between these two entities (M-TACs and MEPs). Any new technology will face an adoption and learning curve through its ramp up to full utilization. Additionally it will likely face cost differences with standard manufacturing methods which may have reached their lowest levels and consequently slow its adoption rates. But opportunities exist where new manufacturing methods can reduce development time, yield higher quality, consume fewer amounts of expensive materials, energy, pollutants, and increase availability to feed the supply chain: MEPs are directly cognizant of these.

Regards,

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