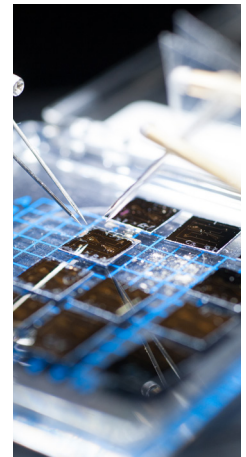
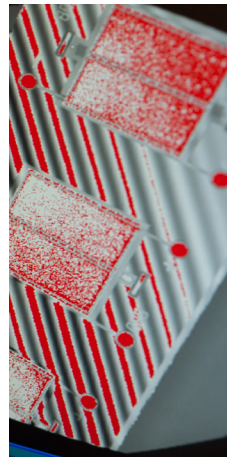
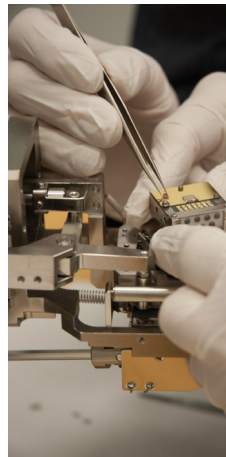


Helping companies overcome challenges to successfully commercialize federal technologies.

COMMERCIALIZATION COLLABORATOR

MEP SERVICES



**MEP • MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP**

Making an Impact on U. S. Manufacturing

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership: A Commercialization Collaborator

The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is the only public-private partnership created to serve U.S. manufacturers. Since 1988, MEP has been committed to strengthening U.S. manufacturing, continually evolving to meet the changing needs of manufacturers. Through its services and partnerships MEP has had a profound impact on the growth of well-paying jobs, the development of dynamic manufacturing communities, and the enhancement of American innovation and global competitiveness.

MEP's strategic objective is to create value for all manufacturers, with a focus on small and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs), which represent nearly 99% of manufacturing firms in the U.S. MEP is able to provide this support to individual manufacturers through its nationwide network of local Centers.

MEP is a part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a U.S. Department of Commerce agency.

Innovation is at the core of what MEP does. Manufacturers that accelerate innovation are far more successful and realize greater opportunities to participate in the global economy. By placing technologies developed through research at federal laboratories, educational institutions and corporations directly in the hands of U.S. manufacturers, MEP serves an essential role in sustaining and growing America's manufacturing base.

The program accelerates and promotes innovation, by providing a framework of Technology Acceleration that helps manufacturers rapidly move new product opportunities into production and into the market. MEP serves as the connection between manufacturers and the technology opportunities and solutions they require to grow and compete in the global marketplace.

National Network

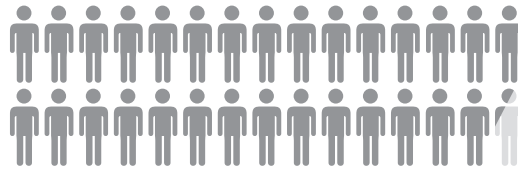
MEP is built on a nationwide system of Centers located throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Each center is a partnership between the federal government and a variety of public or private entities, including state, university, and nonprofit organizations. This diverse network has more than 580 service locations, with over 1,200 field staff serving as trusted business advisors and technical expert

Centers tailor services to SMEs most critical needs, ranging from process improvement and workforce development to business practices, supply chain integration, innovation, and technology transfer. And because MEP's foundation is its partnerships, Centers are a hub for manufacturers, connecting them with government agencies, trade associations, universities and research laboratories, state and federal initiatives, and a host of additional resources to help them realize their goals.

Manufacturers have employed the resources of the MEP network to generate significant bottom-line efficiencies and growth. Since 1988, more than 86,000 manufacturers have worked with MEP, leading to \$96.4 billion in sales, \$16 billion in cost savings, and creating more than 797,000 new jobs.

Through local and national resources, MEP Centers have helped thousands of manufacturers reinvent themselves, increase profits, create jobs and establish a foundation for long-term business growth and productivity.

Interacted with
29,101
Manufacturers
in FY2015



Each year, the MEP network helps thousands of manufacturers increase profits, create jobs and establish a foundation for long-term business growth and productivity.

\$8 Billion
New and Retained Sales

68,477
Total Created and Retained Jobs

\$3.2 Billion
New Client Investments

\$1.2 Billion
Cost Savings

= 1,000 manufacturers

Results reported by MEP clients surveyed in FY2015. Of the 8,419 clients selected to be surveyed 5,940 completed the survey. Measures are a conservative snapshot of benefits. Recurring or cumulative benefits may be larger.

Helping manufacturers propel technology commercialization by delivering a portfolio of resources to bridge the gap between laboratories and the marketplace.

New products represent the future for a manufacturer, but commercializing an idea – transforming it into a desirable product that can be efficiently and profitably manufactured – is a demanding process. MEP offers an integrated portfolio of high-value consulting and business solutions that help companies commercialize technologies. Some of these services include:

Product Design and Prototyping



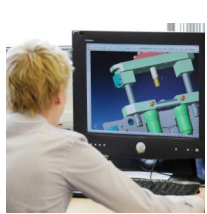
Helps manufacturers move ideas from product design and prototype to manufacturing to market. Up to 80% of a product's costs are committed during the design phase. Smart, strategic choices in materials can result in major cost savings that could mean the difference between market success and failure. MEP brings custom design and prototyping capabilities to make new product ideas a cost-effective reality for companies to successfully compete.

Lean Product Development



Applies the waste elimination philosophy of lean operations to the product development process. This service helps manufacturers reduce time to market, improve resource utilization, and reduce new product development risk, while cutting waste, reducing product costs and product development expense.

Design for Manufacture (DFM)



Designs products to optimize all the manufacturing functions in the product design stage: fabrication, assembly, test, procurement, shipping, delivery, service, and repair, to assure on time, high quality products that meet customer, business and regulatory requirements.

Design for Assembly (DFA)



Reduces the product cost and time of assembly by simplifying a product design through diagnostic assessments that evaluate a product's functionality, form, manufacturing process and assembly characteristics.

Machine and Equipment Design



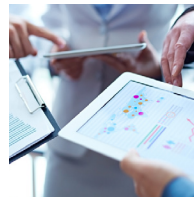
Improves manufacturing efficiency and effectiveness by assessing a company's current equipment and provides them with redesign and performance solutions. Recommendations to modify existing equipment can help reduce production cost, increase equipment capacity, improve equipment flexibility and improve customer response.

Lean Process Improvement



Improves a company's overall operation by using the concepts of lean manufacturing. The core of lean manufacturing is the idea that any resources not creating value for a customer in the form of a product or service, are wasted. Lean establishes a systematic approach to eliminating wastes and creating flow throughout a company. It improves efficiency in the production of goods and services and also helps develop and implement a long-term plan to streamline a company's operation for success.

Strategic Business Development



Provides manufacturers with a strategic business plan to help them prepare for the future, align strategy and goals, identify opportunities for business growth and cost reduction, increase top-line growth, manage talent, and increase market potential.

Technology Scouting



Helps manufacturers find existing technology solutions for their unmet company needs. MEP employs technology scouting tools and services to identify solutions in industries outside a manufacturers normal view and helps them access and pull technologies from government laboratories, universities, and private sector sources.

Technology Driven Market Intelligence



Provides a systematic and comprehensive approach to technology focused market intelligence. TDMI identifies the benefits and the market impacts related to a company's technology-based asset (e.g., idea, product, process, capability) and provides customized actionable intelligence.

Supplier Scouting



Connects U.S. manufacturers with the supply chain needs and business opportunities of various manufacturing supply chains and government agencies. This also includes supply chain re-shoring efforts.

Supply Chain Optimization



Provides manufacturers a platform to help build dynamic supply chains through the use of strategy, risk management, total cost of ownership, supplier communication, and supplier assessments.

Quality Management and Control



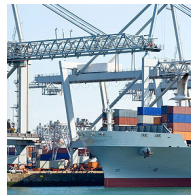
Assists manufacturers to continuously improve all areas of their company's operation through a quality management system. For consistency in the design, development, and delivery of a product or service, MEP analyzes quality issues and develops quality management strategies to improve the company's manufacturing/business processes.

Supplier Development



Helps manufacturers understand, maintain, and expand their capabilities and positions in supply chains. MEP works closely with suppliers to provide guidance and training on Lean, Quality, and other performance improvement programs needed to thrive in existing and future global supply chains.

ExporTech



Helps companies enter or expand in global markets. The program assists companies in developing an international growth plan, provides experts who will vet plans, and connects companies with organizations that will help them move quickly beyond planning to actual export sales.

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