



MAKING AN IMPACT ON U.S. MANUFACTURING

MEP Manufacturing Technology Acceleration Center (M-TAC) Pilot Project: Transportation M-TAC

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The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) serves a vital and diverse role as a nationwide provider of hands-on technical and business assistance supporting the development and competitiveness of manufacturing supply chains.

To help small U.S. manufacturers grow and compete within specific supply chains, MEP is operating a series of Manufacturing Technology Acceleration Center (M-TAC) pilot projects in 2014 and 2015. MEP's M-TAC projects focus on understanding the technological needs and trends of specific supply chains, and in turn providing assistance to small manufacturers to help them adopt, adapt, and integrate appropriate technologies into their business.

The MEP M-TAC projects bring together teams of experts in specific technology and supply chain areas to offer small manufacturers an array of services and deep expertise relating to technology acceleration, transition, and commercialization – within the context of specific supply chains. The M-TAC pilot projects identify where manufacturers most need assistance in adopting or adapting technology. The projects also test and demonstrate business models that will allow small manufacturers to access the technology transition and commercialization services they need to most effectively compete within those supply chain markets.

The **Transportation M-TAC** is led by California Manufacturing Technology Consulting (CMTC), and MEP Center partners include GENEDGE Alliance (VA), the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center, and the Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (CA). The project addresses the Transportation Equipment Manufacturing supply chain, encompassing industries such as aerospace, automotive, trucking, shipping and rail. A sampling of Transportation Equipment Manufacturing OEMs targeted for participation in the project include: GE Aviation, Bridgestone, Emerson Electric Motor Division, and Raytheon Transportation.

The **Transportation M-TAC** project takes a systems view of technology needs within these supply chains by working with Top/Mid-Tier manufacturers to identify their needs and the needs of small manufacturers within their supply chains. The project also then directly works with the supply chains' small manufacturers to provide awareness about the needs of Top/Mid Tiers, as well as assistance in implementing specific technologies.

The project is conducting pilots with proactive Top/Mid – Tier manufacturers in the transportation sector to:

- Identify and enable the adoption of technologies in supply chains
- Improve supplier capabilities, performance, and value
- Create opportunities for small manufacturers to grow within these supply chains

Additional information about MEP's M-TAC Pilot Projects, including specific info about the Transportation M-TAC project, can be obtained from NIST MEP by contacting either David Stieren at david.stieren@nist.gov or Mark Schmit at mark.schmit@nist.gov

