

\$214 million in new and retained sales
\$41 million in new investments
1,773 jobs created or retained

Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center (IMEC) is a team of experienced continuous improvement experts who work with small and mid-sized Illinois manufacturers to be more productive and globally competitive. IMEC's hands-on training and consulting services enable manufacturers to develop profitable growth strategies, improve quality, contain operating costs, increase capacity and on-time delivery, and solve technical operating problems such as product defects or process bottlenecks.

Manufacturers assisted by IMEC achieve productivity gains more than seven times greater than firms that don't receive similar assistance. They increase sales, hire workers and modernize when others typically scale back. Third-party post-project surveys confirm that IMEC annually generates more than \$100 million in validated improvements in manufacturing performance.

Today, small and mid-sized manufacturers throughout Illinois provide leading-wage jobs, are key links in global supply chains, and provide components to multi-nationals in sectors such as agriculture, automotive, aerospace, and construction equipment. Still others produce their own original equipment and consumer products and are known for some of the best known brands in the world. Challenges faced by these companies are obvious, like difficulty attracting and keeping skilled labor. Others are more complex, like aging equipment, outdated technology, and competition from lower cost overseas producers. What's clear is that smaller firms who do not keep pace with today's standards of productivity and quality are at risk. IMEC manufacturing experts work on-site with the leaders of smaller manufacturing companies to help them increase operating efficiency, reduce defects, and prepare their teams to succeed long term.

For more information, contact:



Dave Boulay, Center Director
Jobst Hall, Bradley University
Peoria, IL 61625
(309) 677-3289
www.imec.org

7 field offices throughout Illinois

* Impacts are based on clients receiving service in FY2010



CLIENT SUCCESS: CORRUGATED METALS, INC.

“IMEC delivers on everything they say they will. And their level of expertise and experience is just tremendous.”

Ken Carlton, President

ISO Positions Company to Land Defense Contract

Corrugated Metals, Inc. provides roll-forming and metal-corrugating products and services for the construction industry, Original Equipment Manufacturers, and the U.S. military. The company employs 35 people at its facility in Belvidere, Illinois.

Situation:

With a significant portion of its business coming from government contracts, Corrugated Metals decided to pursue quality, efficiency and safety improvements to make its products and services more attractive to potential customers. The company called upon the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Center (IMEC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

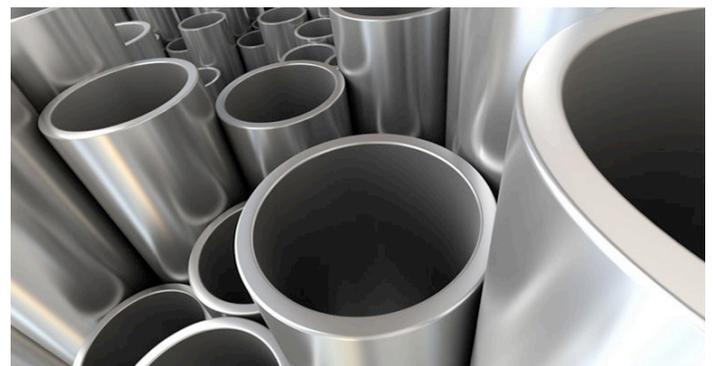
Solution:

IMEC provided training for Corrugated Metals' employees and worked with the company on documenting processes and protocols. With a comprehensive, custom Quality Management System in place, IMEC encouraged Corrugated Metals to pursue ISO 9001:2000 certification. Following successful ISO registration, IMEC helped the company achieve certification to the U.S. military's Qualified Suppliers List of Distributors (QSLD) in record time, completing the typical 18-month process in just 60 days. IMEC also helped the company develop a best practices safety plan that authorizes any employee to stop any action in the plant at any time for safety reasons.

Results:

- * Achieved ISO 9001:2000 certification.
- * Awarded \$30 million Department of Defense contract.
- * Improved safety levels.

Awarded \$30 million in
Department of Defense
Contract



Jan 2012