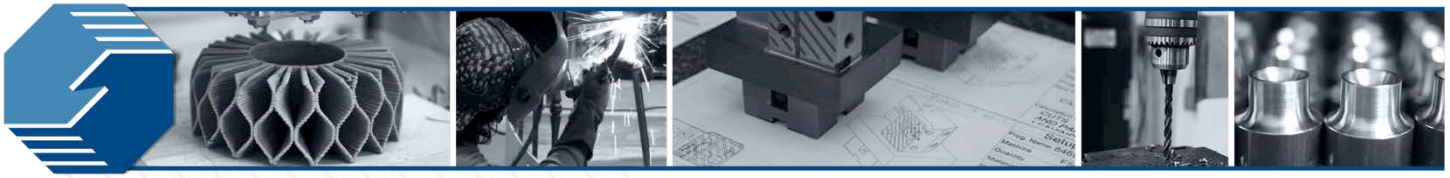

MAKING AN IMPACT ON U.S. MANUFACTURING

# MEP Manufacturing Technology Acceleration Center (M-TAC) Pilot Project: Great Lakes 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 University of Wisconsin-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center, Northwestern Wisconsin MEP, leads the **Great Lakes M-TAC project,** with Wisconsin MEP as a project participant. The Great Lakes M-TAC pilot is targeting the technology needs of key Wisconsin-based companies whose growth in their supply chains is limited by the identification and application of technologies. The M-TAC pilot will enable companies to access and apply advanced manufacturing technology acceleration services that propel small manufacturers to be globally competitive. Some of the industries targeted include: metal manufacturing, sand processing, plastic extrusion, dairy product manufacturing; transportation equipment; electrical equipment manufacturing; and foundries.

The **Great Lakes M-TAC** seeks to connect established industry and supply chain working groups in the target industries with existing and emerging research consortia and institutions to identify new or emerging advanced technologies and establish a new model for technology adoption. The **Great Lakes M-TAC** project also works with OEMs and small manufacturers within the target supply chains to obtain information about technology needs and assess technology shortfalls. The project then acts as the conduit for matching emergent technologies with those needs. Technologies within scope for this project are those that are identified as implementation-ready for transition and adoption within a one-year period.

Additional information about MEP's M-TAC Pilot Projects, including specific info about the Great Lakes 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