



MAKING AN IMPACT ON U.S. MANUFACTURING

**NIST**  
National Institute of  
Standards and Technology  
U.S. Department of Commerce

# Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership

VCAT Meeting Presentation  
October 2016, Boulder, CO

Carroll Thomas, Director MEP

## MISSION

“

To enhance the productivity and technological performance of U.S. Manufacturing.

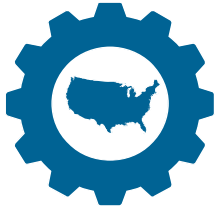
”

## ROLE

MEP's state and regional centers facilitate and accelerate the transfer of manufacturing technology in partnership with industry, universities and educational institutions, state governments, and NIST and other federal and research laboratories and agencies.

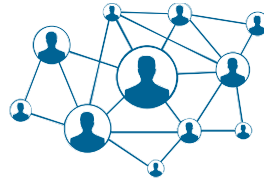


# MEP Program in Short



## Program Started in 1988

At least one center in all 50 states by 1996



## National Network

51+ Centers with over 550 Field Locations. System wide, Non-Federal Staff is over 1,200. Contracting over 2,300 partners.



## Partnership Model

Federal, State, University, and Industry



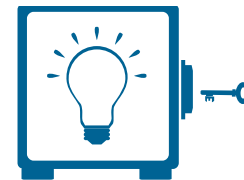
## MEP System Budget

\$130 Million Federal Budget with Cost Share Requirements for Centers



## Global Competitiveness

Program was created by the 1988 Omnibus Trade And Competitive Act

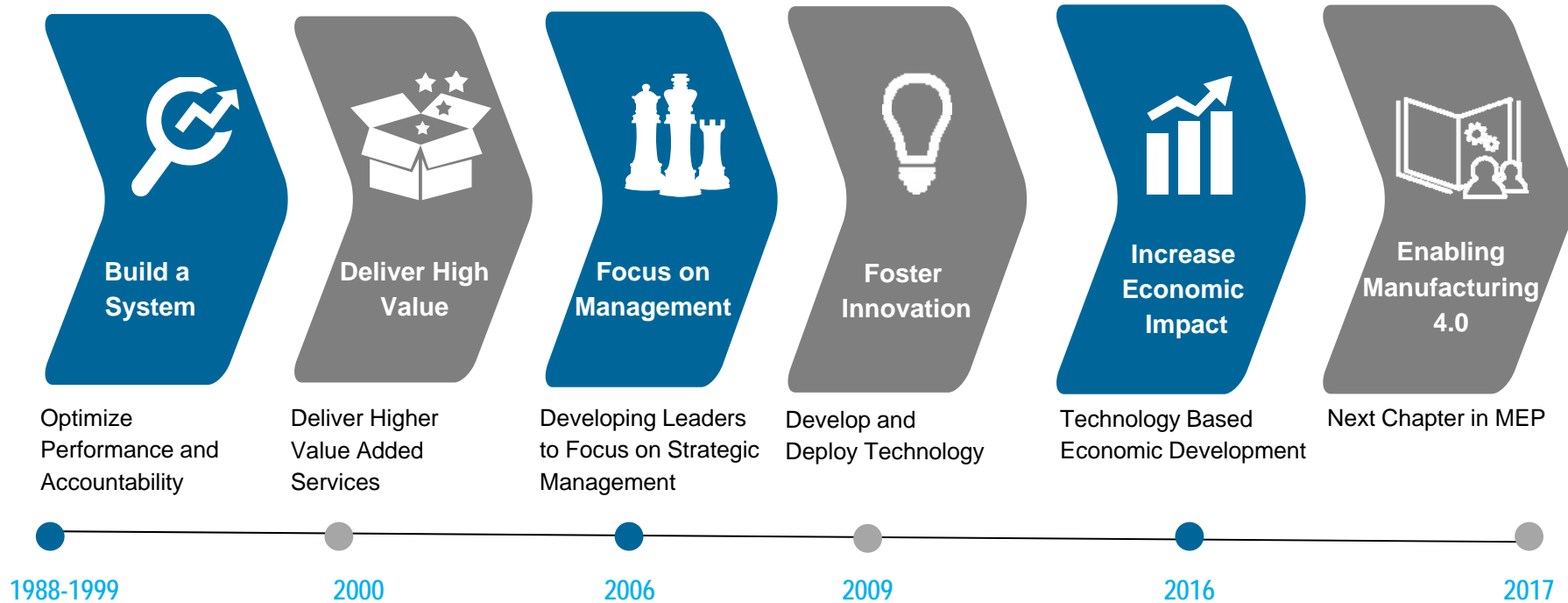


## Evolving Role

Program continues to evolve in order to support manufacturers during changing economic situations.



# Program Evolution



# Network Competition

- Completion of re-competition

3/4

Rounds complete

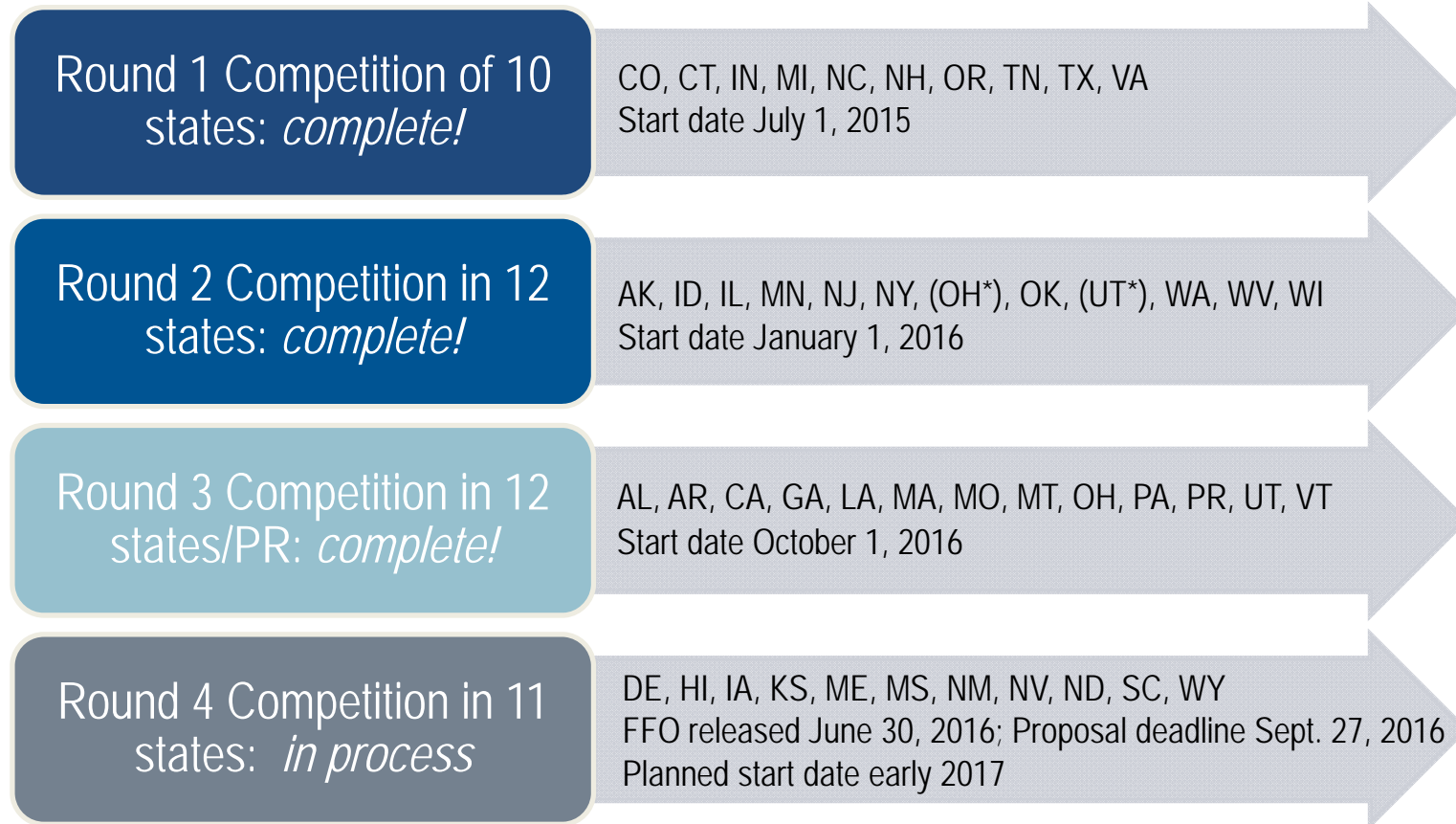
4th

Round under way

- Reallocation of funds to the Centers with temporary cost share relief
  - Center funding formula
  - All Centers raised to a minimum level
  - Cost share re-set at 1:1 for the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years of new awards

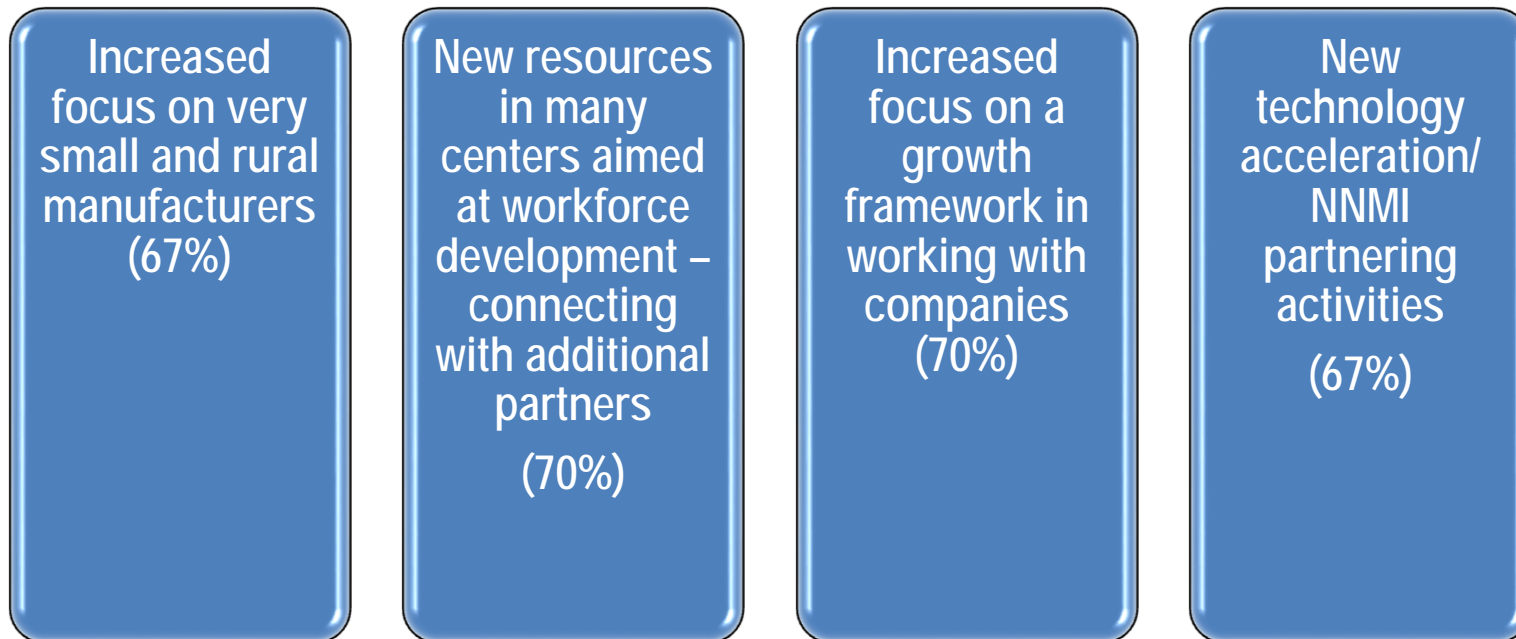


# Status of Competition Rounds as of October 2016





# New Partnerships, New Initiatives From Round 1, 2 & 3 Awards in Key Strategic Areas

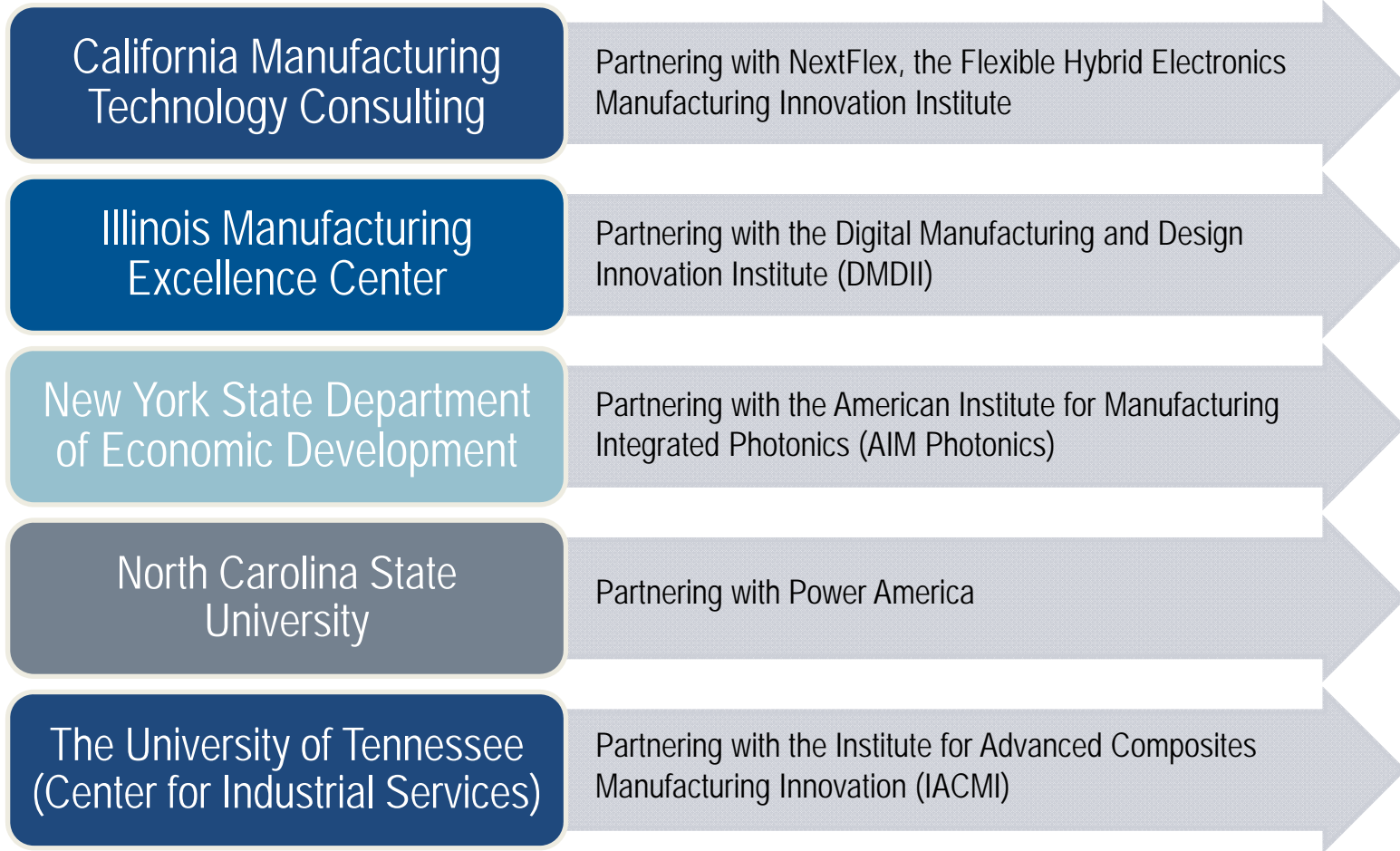


33 Centers in 32 States and Puerto Rico



# MEP/Mfg USA Embedding Pilot

Demonstrating ways to leverage MEP assistance to small U.S. manufacturers in technology focus areas of MFG USA





# Recent Organizational Realignment

1

MEP's realignment is designed to improve **efficiency** and **effectiveness** for the customers we serve by better supporting the program's mission and strategic objectives of Enhancing Competitiveness, Championing Manufacturing, Supporting Partnerships, and Developing Capabilities.

2

It will also puts MEP in line with the overall NIST organizational structure.

3

Finally, it gives significant opportunities for **professional growth** currently unavailable by creating clear Divisions, Groups and Teams.






# Building the MEP National Network Brand

Developing a unified message and vision among the diverse set of voices


01. What  
Building a  
cohesive  
**National  
Network brand**  
identity and  
value  
proposition



02. Why  
There is a lot of  
noise about  
manufacturing, and  
**MEP gets lost in it.**  
A unified National  
Network brand is  
**critical for long-  
term survival.**



03. Promise  
We will collectively  
**build it together** and  
choose to go in a  
direction that  
**encompasses the  
diversity** of the  
Network.







**MANUFACTURING DAY | 10.07.16**  
See Manufacturing in Action Across America



# Major Challenges Ahead

## Not in our control

- Manufacturing 4.0
- Legislation on cost share
- Funding to provide consistent resizing of the Centers

## In our control

- Expanding role in manufacturing ecosystems
- Branding – messaging about the network for manufacturers and funders
- Improving system performance metrics



# Thank You

## Stay Connected

*Search* NISTMEP or NIST\_MEP



VISIT OUR BLOG!

<http://nistmep.blogs.govdelivery.com>

Get the latest NISTMEP news at:

[www.nist.gov/mep](http://www.nist.gov/mep)

