



MAKING AN IMPACT ON U.S. MANUFACTURING

## MEP Manufacturing Technology Acceleration Center (M-TAC) Pilot Project: Food and Beverage Processors 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 **Food and Beverage Processors M-TAC** project is led by Oregon MEP, and MEP Center project partners include Impact Washington and Idaho TechHelp. The project is working in collaboration with the Northwest Food Processors Association to identify technical and business challenges faced by small manufacturers in the food and beverage processing supply chains of the northwest U.S., and to identify new product and process technologies appropriate to these challenges.

Through online Emerging Technology Showcases, the **Food and Beverage Processors M-TAC** project virtually introduces vetted technology products or services to small food and beverage manufacturers. If a manufacturer is interested in a particular showcased technology, the **Food and Beverage Processors M-TAC** then assists the manufacturer in adopting the respective technology. In addition to this assistance, participating manufacturers will have access to services from MEP to adopt, integrate and commercialize any other product and/or process technologies they are interested in. The project will serve to identify and support the adoption of appropriate new technologies from research universities, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers operating in the northwest U.S.

The **Food and Beverage Processors M-TAC** project is seeking to support an accelerated technology commercialization process by providing an informed and market-driven voice to research universities, and by sharing relevant technology information with industry.

Additional information about MEP's M-TAC Pilot Projects, including specific info about the Food Processors M-TAC project, can be obtained from NIST MEP by contacting either David Stieren at [david.stieren@nist.gov](mailto:david.stieren@nist.gov) or Clara Asmail at [clara.asmail@nist.gov](mailto:clara.asmail@nist.gov).

