NIST MEP
2016
ANNUAL REPORT
Making an Impact on U.S. Manufacturing

MEP • MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP®
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During this past year, I was thrilled to take part in many important industry initiatives as well as lead the implementation of critical internal operational changes. From the 225th anniversary of Alexander Hamilton’s Report on Manufacturing to the annual national Manufacturing Day, to the final passage of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, I had the opportunity to reflect on the changes that have taken place and the ones that are ahead as we enter the next industrial revolution.

These opportunities allowed me to interact with countless people who share my passion for U.S. manufacturing. Who work day in and day out to help make manufacturers in their communities more competitive and to build and strengthen local, state, and regional manufacturing ecosystems.

A number of significant initiatives and internal improvements also occurred in 2016. First, the program continued its multi-year state Center competition, with the full system competition culminating in April 2017. Second, the NIST MEP Program office in Gaithersburg was restructured to improve efficiencies and streamline resources. And finally, we initiated our first formal collaboration with the Manufacturing USA Institutes that will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise about the unique technology areas from each Institute to MEP Center staff and leverage what we learn nationally to all 51 MEP Centers. The ultimate benefit will have a positive impact on getting that know-how and expertise disseminated to small and mid-sized manufacturers across the country.

Recently, the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research published a study using the FY 2016 MEP program impacts which found that the Program generates a substantial economic and financial return of nearly 9:1 for the $130 million annually invested by the federal government. It is indeed an extraordinary national program and local resource, a true collective of the most dedicated, talented, manufacturing experts and trusted advisors. I am truly honored to lead this incredible program that has a national economic impact and helps protect our national security. I look forward to continuing to tell the story about the MEP National Network and the unparalleled results it delivers for our Nation and its manufacturers.
ABOUT MEP

Since 1988, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) has worked to strengthen U.S. manufacturing. The Program was created by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 to improve the competitiveness of U.S. based manufacturing by making manufacturing technologies, processes, and services more accessible to small and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs). Over the last twenty-nine years, MEP has been focused on bridging the manufacturing productivity gap, identifying opportunities for growth, and encouraging technology deployment.

MEP is part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Through its collaborations at the federal, state and local level, MEP Centers work with manufacturers to develop new products and customers, expand and diversify markets, adopt new technologies, advise these firms on cybersecurity issues, and enhance value within supply chains.

The MEP Centers and their partners, including state governments, universities, community colleges, non-profit entities, associations, and private consultants provide manufacturers with the services needed to reduce bottom-line expenses and grow top-line profits, both of which are necessary to thrive in the global marketplace.

“Mission: To enhance the productivity and technological performance of U.S. Manufacturing.”
Having grown from a pilot project of just three Centers to a National Network of organizations providing its manufacturing clients with a wide array of fundamental services in business and process improvements, the MEP National Network today consists of 51 Centers in every state and Puerto Rico. It has nearly 1,300 trusted advisors and experts, approximately 600 field locations, and more than 2,500 service providers. The Program interacted with over 25,000 manufacturers during 2016. According to a national survey of MEP Center clients, for every one dollar of federal investment, the MEP National Network generates $17.9 in new sales growth for manufacturers and $27.0 in new client investment. This translates into $2.3 billion in new sales annually. And, for every $1,501 of federal investment, MEP creates or retains one manufacturing job.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOBS</th>
<th>19,680 Jobs Created</th>
<th>66,922 Retained Jobs</th>
<th>86,602 Total Jobs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SALES</td>
<td>$2.3 Billion New Sales</td>
<td>$7.0 Billion Retained Sales</td>
<td>$9.3 Billion Total Sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>COST SAVINGS</td>
<td>$3.5 Billion New Client Investments</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion Cost Savings</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Nearly 600 Field Locations
- Nearly 1,300 MEP Experts
- Over 2,500 Partners
- U.S. manufacturing sector includes over 292,000 Establishments

MEP AT-A-GLANCE
IMPORTANCE OF MANUFACTURING

Then

On December 5th, we celebrated the 225th anniversary of Alexander Hamilton’s report on manufacturing to Congress. In 1791, Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, submitted his “Report on Manufactures: Communication to the House of Representatives.” Hamilton’s report, commissioned by Congress, passionately and thoroughly laid out how the United States could gain specific economic advantages by encouraging the growth of manufacturing in the newly formed United States of America. Hamilton asserted that manufacturing would bring the added diversity of employment opportunities with increased productivity from using machinery and the employment of technical skills. He saw manufacturing as a way of helping the country become “independent of foreign nations for military and other essential supplies.” Hamilton specifically called out the need for government to nurture a fledgling manufacturing sector. He compellingly outlined how manufacturing alongside a strong agrarian economy would make the United States of America the greatest economy in the world.

Now

Fast forward to today, when last year alone, the manufacturing sector contributed $2.2 trillion (about 12%) to the $18 trillion-dollar U.S. economy. Manufactured goods accounted for 89% of all U.S. exports and have grown at a faster rate than the rest of the economy since the 2008-2009 recession. For every $1 manufacturing contributes to the economy, it supports an additional $1.81 in economic activity, greater than any other sector. The average annual wage of manufacturing workers is $65,000, 21% higher than the overall average. This is more than twice the average for larger-employing sectors, such as retail and food services. All of this is proof of Hamilton’s vision of manufacturing and its importance to the U.S. economy.
MEP ADVISORY BOARD

In December 2016, Congress passed the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (P.L. 114-329) which among other important MEP Program updates, authorizes the MEP Advisory Board updating the statute requirements for the structure and composition of the Board.

The purpose of the Board is to provide advice and recommendations to the NIST Director on:

1. The activities, plans and policies of MEP
2. The soundness of MEP’s plans and strategies
3. Current performance in relation to MEP Program plans

The MEP Advisory Board was in alignment with NIST MEP leadership on the importance of looking towards the future of manufacturing in the country. The board was focused on how to best strengthen MEP to empower and grow the capabilities of U.S. small and medium sized manufacturers. The working groups of the Board, in conjunction with NIST MEP staff, have moved various initiatives forward, set clear direction for future deliverables, and are ready to help navigate the Program into the future.

The Advisory Board met in March, May and September of 2016 and our members spent time working within working groups to explore and develop recommendations on important programmatic goals. At the first meeting of the year, the Advisory Board put into action one of the goals of last year, which was to support the National Network’s board governance efforts. The Advisory Board and members of the local Center Boards convened a joint workshop where the two groups had a chance to discuss how they should best engage to improve the National Network. Both groups left with actionable items for implementation and will be continuing discussions in 2017. With a great start to the year, we also ended the year with an exciting and long awaited deliverable, the passing of S.3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (P.L. 114-329). This important legislation changed the MEP Program’s non-federal to federal cost share ratio from 2:1 to 1:1. This monumental effort is a direct result of the tireless efforts of the MEP Advisory Board and the entire MEP Network.
MEP ADVISORY BOARD

MEMBERS 2016

In 2016, the Advisory Board was charged with three specific areas to focus on:

1. Reengaging senior management to provide guidance and advice to create the 2017 – 2022 Strategic Plan.

2. Guidance on the development of a protocol to connect user facilities, research and technologies at NIST and other federal laboratories with small and medium-sized manufacturers.

3. Recommendations on the establishment of an MEP Learning Organization.

The Advisory Board formed working groups to focus on the above charges and updates on each of those areas are discussed further in the 2016 MEP Advisory Board Annual report.

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Lockheed Martin Corporation,
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Kathay Rennels,
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The MEP Program has continued to use the 2014 – 2017 Strategic Plan to guide priorities and activities focused on the four primary strategic goals and the strategic objectives within each. The MEP Program is updating the strategic plan, which will help ensure the Program remains focused for the next five years, 2017-2022. The four MEP strategic goals and objectives are:

**ENHANCE COMPETITIVENESS**
Enhance the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized companies.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**
- Deliver services that create value for all manufacturers, particularly focusing on SMMs.
- Enable Centers to make new manufacturing technology, techniques and practices usable by U.S. based small and medium-sized companies.
- Develop “Data as a Service” for Competitive Advantage.

**CHAMPION MANUFACTURING**
Serve as a voice to and a voice for manufacturing and manufacturers in engaging policy makers, stakeholders, and clients.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**
- Champion the importance of SMMs and ensure their inclusion in the economic competitiveness policies and programs of the U.S. government.
- Increase Role of National and Center Boards.

**SUPPORT PARTNERSHIPS**
Support national, state, and regional manufacturing eco-systems and partnerships.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**
- Provide Centers with local flexibility and adaptability to operate based on regional priorities and client needs.
- Support national policy goals.

**DEVELOP CAPABILITIES**
Develop MEP’s capabilities as a learning organization and high performance system.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**
- Promote System Learning.
- Evolve MEP Performance System.
- Continue administrative reforms.
HIGHLIGHTS OF MEP

FUTURE IS NOW

Earlier this year, Director Carroll Thomas asked for volunteers from the 51 MEP Center Directors to help define and shape the future of how the MEP Centers will operate as a National Network based on the rapid technological changes in and to manufacturing because of Manufacturing 4.0. Twenty volunteers from MEP Center leadership across the country responded and met in Gaithersburg in November to begin to plan for how NIST and the MEP Centers can become a truly integrated national network, capable of sharing resources and expertise throughout the country.

PASSAGE OF AMERICAN INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT

On December 12, 2016, Congress passed S. 3084, the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA) which was signed into law shortly thereafter (Public Law 114-329). The AICA represents one of the most important legislative changes in the MEP Program’s history, third only to the Program’s creation in 1988 and sunset clause removal in 1998. The AICA essentially rewrites the original authorizing legislation, including permanently changing the cost share ratio from 2:1 to 1:1. The AICA also provides new language requiring a re-competition of all MEP Centers which have received 10-years of consecutive federal funding, changes the MEP Center review cycle, updates the MEP Advisory Board membership requirements and provides additional clarifying clauses regarding performance, confidentiality and Board oversight.

COMPLETION OF STATE COMPETITION

In March 2014, the Government Accountability Office recommended that MEP update its distribution of funds, which were then allocated based on funding each Center received when it was first established – some as long as 20 years ago or more. Because of this recommendation, MEP developed a strategy for executing open state competitions in four separate rounds over three years beginning in 2014 and concluding in December 2016.

ROUND 1
Competition awards began July 1, 2015 and included 10 states

ROUND 2
Competition awards began January 1, 2016 and included 10 states

ROUND 3
Competition awards were announced September 2016 and included 13 states
Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Utah, Vermont

ROUND 4
Toward the end of 2016, MEP began review of submissions for the final round of awards for 11 states
Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, South Carolina, Wyoming
NIST MEP undertook an initiative to embed MEP Center personnel into Manufacturing USA® Institutes via a series of cooperative agreements awarded to MEP Centers. The resulting Embedding Projects place MEP Center personnel in residence at Manufacturing USA Institutes to develop ways to cultivate enduring collaborations among small U.S. manufacturers, the Institutes and MEP Centers for the benefit of all these entities. These Embedding projects are developing transformative approaches for the MEP Network, serving small U.S. manufacturers as trusted advisors in the technology-centric operations and markets of today and tomorrow.

Round One Embedding Projects began operating on October 1, 2016 for 2-year periods of performance and include (with Lead MEP Center and Primary Manufacturing USA Institutes, respectively):

- California Manufacturing Technology Consulting, partnering with NextFlex
- Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC), partnering with the Digital Manufacturing & Design Innovation Institute (DMDII)
- New York MEP, partnering with American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics)
- North Carolina MEP, partnering with PowerAmerica
- Tennessee MEP, partnering with the Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI)
CYBERSECURITY

NIST MEP established a Cybersecurity Program to raise awareness of the importance of cybersecurity among small manufacturers.

Based on the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, we developed cybersecurity awareness materials specifically designed for small manufacturers, including webinars, brochures, presentations and assessment tools. MEP Centers use these materials to help improve the cybersecurity posture of the small U.S. manufacturers they serve.

NIST MEP also began to provide guidance to MEP Centers to assist small manufacturers that supply the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). MEP is helping these manufacturers meet the new DFAR cybersecurity requirements. These requirements are based on NIST Special Publication 800-171 and may represent a more mature approach to managing cybersecurity risks than is typically found in a small manufacturer. The guidance developed by NIST MEP will help small manufacturers better understand these requirements and help them develop an effective cybersecurity plan based on the risks in their environment.

Through these efforts NIST MEP and the MEP National Network assist small U.S. manufacturers to understand, address and improve their cybersecurity risk management.

CONNECTING WITH NIST LABS

NIST MEP began piloting the MEP-Assisted Technology and Technical Resource (MATTR) program to better connect small and medium-sized manufacturers with the resources of the NIST laboratories. The MATTR program provides a mechanism for U.S. manufacturers with specific needs or questions concerning products or processes to be connected through the MEP Centers to the technical expertise, laboratory facilities, and other resources of the NIST Laboratories. It also allows NIST lab staff to inquire of MEP if there are needs in the manufacturing arena that NIST should address.

Connect small and medium-sized manufacturers with the resources of NIST laboratories.
In 2016, MEP reaffirmed its commitments and partnerships with the DOD. It remains constant that the DOD relies on an available secure, flexible and responsive manufacturing supply chain to support our national defense. Small and medium-sized manufacturers are essential links in DOD supply chain effectiveness, yet these smaller firms have less access to improvement resources and technology. MEP and DOD partnerships support the national defense.

**MilTech**
DOD Partnership Intermediary organization relationship that is leveraging MEP Centers to provide technical assistance to U.S. manufacturers in transitioning technology into products needed for the DOD warfighter.

**Manufacturing USA Institutes**
MEP Center personnel are embedded in residence at DOD-sponsored Manufacturing USA® Institutes, with the target of having MEP personnel embedded in all 8 DOD-sponsored Institutes. MEP is extending technical assistance engagements with small manufacturers on a national scale in defense critical areas that are the focus of these Institutes.
Earlier this year, MEP did an evaluation of MEP’s impact on the defense industrial base. The study looked at MEP clients that are also contractors to the DOD.

Since 2013, MEP Centers have completed 2,567 projects and worked with 1,658 companies that are prime suppliers to the DOD. MEP works with large OEM-type suppliers and their supply chains to the DOD. MEP has active projects with Oshkosh Defense (working with 31 lower tier suppliers on ISO certification) and Huntington-Ingalls at Newport News (over 80 suppliers reducing costs to the DOD customer). And from 2013 to 2016, MEP worked with 706 companies that have defense industry NAICs classifications.

**OEA**

A partnership with the Office of the Secretary of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) in which MEP Centers in 22 states are leveraging OEA funding and combining it with their outreach and technical/business acumen to assist companies in the DOD supply chain by: Reducing their costs through process improvements; developing growth plans for new customers, new products, and new markets; and matching their manufacturing capabilities to new business opportunities.
WORKFORCE

MEP Centers are engaged in a wide variety of activities to help manufacturers develop a skilled workforce with progressive workforce practices. Centers partner with K-12, community colleges, universities and others to support efforts to build the workforce development eco-system for manufacturing. Essential components and examples of these efforts include:

TALENT PLANNING – MEP Centers provide services to their small manufacturing clients to comprehensively assess an organization’s talent needs and facilitate strategy with the client to meet those near term and longer-term talent needs.

INTERNSHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS – Many MEP Centers are leading or supporting state initiatives for apprenticeships. In addition, MEP Centers help small manufacturers identify opportunities for Internships and connect clients to the education resources for students.

CUSTOMIZED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING SKILLS CERTIFICATIONS – MEP Centers provide customized training to clients such as technical skills, skills certifications, management and supervisory development, problem solving and team building, and skills assessments.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TALENT PIPELINE – MEP Centers work to get manufacturers engaged in Manufacturing Day. Several MEP Centers are leads for “Dream It Do It,” to continue the efforts of Manufacturing Day throughout the year.

This year, NIST MEP contracted with WorkCred, a division of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), in cooperation with the NIST Standards Coordination Office, to fund the research project, “Examining the Quality, Market Value, and Effectiveness of Manufacturing Credentials.” The goals of this research project are to identify credentials being used by manufacturers, understand how the credentials are being used, and understand what, if any, is the effectiveness of the credential in the workplace. In addition, the study will help identify skill gaps that could be filled by creating new credentials and replacing existing ones that are ineffective. Initial results will be available during the middle of 2017.
MANUFACTURING DAY

On the first Friday in October of every year, thousands of manufacturers and educational institutions across the nation participate in Manufacturing Day (MFG Day) by hosting open houses, public tours, career workshops and other events. In 2016, close to 500,000 people participated through 2,800 MFG Day events. Through this collective effort, MFG Day draws public attention to manufacturing’s present-day reality and encourages careers in this secure and growing sector of the economy. MEP Centers and their partners worked tirelessly to create and execute events across their states. The MFG Day hashtag has trended on social media for the past three years, with #mfgday16 reaching second place on Twitter for part of the day. Learn more at www.mfgday.com.

According to a Deloitte perception survey conducted for MFG Day in 2016, of the students that participated in MFG Day events:

89% Were more aware of manufacturing jobs in their communities
84% Were more convinced that manufacturing provides interesting and rewarding careers
64% Were more motivated to pursue a career in manufacturing

“In 2016, close to 500,000 people participated through 2,800 MFG Day events.”
COMING NEXT
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN 2017

NATIONAL NETWORK BRAND

Building upon the work started in 2016 with an outside agency and a group of Center Directors serving as our Brand Council, NIST MEP will roll out a new National Network brand in the coming year. There are 51 MEP Centers with separate recognizable local brands in each state. Our objective is to identify a clear, cohesive way to communicate and explain what ties us together and the value that we offer as one network to manufacturers, funders, and other stakeholders across the nation. The MEP National Network is the only private-public partnership that offers proven solutions to SMMs, that is reachable within a few hours of manufacturers across the country, and that delivers measurable, validated business results for these companies. The purpose of our branding initiative is to make it easier for manufacturers to learn about us and work with their local Center.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Building upon the efforts which commenced in FY 2016, the MEP Strategic Planning Committee, will wrap up interviews in the 2nd quarter of FY 2017. By the end of the third quarter the first draft of the 2017-2022 Strategic MEP National Network Plan will be completed, and an associated National Network Implementation Plan will be ready to roll out in the first quarter of FY2018. The MEP Director will provide guidance to the National Branding and the Future is Now Initiatives to ensure all three efforts are aligned with the new 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.
Advanced manufacturing technologies continue to emerge and mature at an ever-increasing pace. The resulting transformation of manufacturing enterprises is driven by the explosion of automation, connectivity and computing power. These new technologies, collectively known as Manufacturing 4.0, are enabling manufacturers of all sizes to experience significant improvements in productivity and growth. To meet the rapidly changing needs of manufacturers, the MEP system will need to develop widespread capabilities and capacity to provide sufficient awareness and assistance to expedite the adoption of these new technologies by SMM’s to drive U.S manufacturing competitiveness.

MANUFACTURING 4.0

As part of MEP’s on-going efforts to make the program more effective and efficient, we began development of a competitive awards program that will be open throughout the fiscal year. This streamlined process will allow applicants to submit proposals rather than through repeatedly running special competitions. This will also allow the program to evaluate and fund meritorious ideas on an on-going basis. The program solicitation is based on an existing NIST Measurement Science and Engineering solicitation used by the NIST Laboratory Operating Units in their grants programs that is likewise open throughout the fiscal year. We expect to make the first awards under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in late summer of 2017.

PERFORMANCE-BASED AWARDS PROGRAM

The MEP National Network continues to be a relevant voice to the manufacturing industry in the United States. The new and rapidly changing landscape of technology will require significant effort to ensure MEP continues to be recognized as a crucial public-private partnership delivering necessary services and initiatives to advance and transform U.S. manufacturing. We look forward to a productive and exciting year of growth.

As we continue into 2017, NIST MEP looks forward to working with our Advisory Board, MEP Centers, and partners on significant initiatives to advance manufacturing in the U.S. and help ensure the competitiveness and success of U.S. manufacturers.

ADVISORY BOARD

The advent of a new Administration has led to the issuance of a number of Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders. On January 24, 2017, two memoranda concerning regulatory and permitting reforms and pipeline construction were issued. MEP is a participant in both in the collection and analysis of information and new technologies.
2016 MEP CENTERS

MEP Centers serve as the foundation of the MEP Program. Throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico, more than 580 field offices comprised of 1,200 experts help make U.S. manufacturing stronger.

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www.esd.ny.gov/nystar/RegionalTechCtrs.asp

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North Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NCMEP)
1005 Capability Drive, Research II Bldg.
Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27606
Phone: 919 -513-6119
www.ncmep.org

North Dakota
Impact Dakota
1929 N. Washington St. Suite M
Bismark, ND 58501
Phone: 866-297-8250
www.impactdakota.com

Ohio
Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Ohio MEP)
77 S. High Street 28th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
Phone: 614-644-5059
development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_mep.htm

Oklahoma
Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance (OK Alliance)
525 South Main Street, Suite 210
Tulsa, OK 74103
Phone: 918-592-0722
www.okalliance.com

Oregon
Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP)
12909 S.W. 68th Parkway, Suite 140
Portland, OR 97223
Phone: 503-406-3770
www.omep.org

Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Manufacturing Extension Extension Partnership (PAMEP)
One College Avenue,
DIF 32, Williamsport, PA 17701
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www.pamade.org/network

Puerto Rico
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www.primexpr.org

Rhode Island
Polaris MEP
75 Lower College Road
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Phone: 401-524-4911
www.polarismep.org

South Carolina
South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership (SCMEP)
250 Berryhill Road, Suite 512
Columbia, SC 29210
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South Dakota Manufacturing and Technology Solutions
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www.cis.tennessee.edu

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100 South 1495 East, MER1121
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mep.utah.edu

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