MEP Advisory Board

February 23, 2021
FACA Board Meeting

This is a simplified version of the presentation for website purposes. A full version may be requested by emailing Cheryl.Gendron@nist.gov
The MEP Advisory Board is authorized under Section 3003(d) of the America COMPETES Act (Pub. L. 110–69), as amended by the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act, Public Law 114–329 sec. 501 (2017), and codified at 15 U.S.C. 278k(m), in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C., App.
Welcome

• Matthew Newman, MEP Advisory Board, Chair
MAB Meeting Details

• Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021

• Board Meeting Opening/Logistics
• Welcome and Introductions
• Opening Remarks
• Welcome from NIST Leadership
• Board and Audience Introductions
• NIST MEP Senior Management Update
• Presentation: MEP: 1988 to Now – Three Meaningful Legislative Reforms
• Presentation: Strategic Planning Foundation
• Working Group Update: MEP National Network™ Strategic Plan 2023-2028
• Working Group Update: Supply Chain Development
• Working Group Update: Executive Committee
Welcome and Introductions

- **James K. Olthoff**, Performing the duties of the NIST Director
- **Mojdeh Bahar**, NIST, Associate Director, Innovation and Industry Services
- **Rob Ivester**, Acting Director, NIST MEP
Welcome New MEP Advisory Board Member

Ray Aguerrevere, Custom Metal Designs, Inc.
NIST MEP Senior Management Update

1. MEP Program Budget Outlook / Spend Plan

2. MEP National Network Update


4. NIST MEP Operational Update
MEP Program Budget Outlook  
(as of 2/23/2021)

**FY 2021 Appropriation Status**

- **Base funding:** $150 million
  - **$4 million** increase over FY 2020.
  - Center funding not subject to cost share requirements; elective for Centers receiving state funds conditioned on federal cost share requirement.

**FY 2022 Appropriation Status**

- President’s budget request and congressional appropriation bills forthcoming.
## NIST MEP FY 2021 Projected Spend Plan

### Available Funding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount ($ Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Year Appropriation</td>
<td>150.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carryover from FY 2020</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding from Other Agencies</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Available Funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>157.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Planned Expenditures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount ($ Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center Renewals</td>
<td>126.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Competitions</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIST MEP Labor</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIST and Program Overhead</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Planned Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>157.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
... and on the Legislative Front

- **Omnibus Funding Bill for FY2021 Signed into Law, December 27, 2020**
  - Funding NIST MEP through FY 2021, $150 million.
  - The bill contains over 2,000 pages containing the first comprehensive energy overhaul in new energy policy in over a dozen years which is highly relevant to the Network. More will be revealed.

- **The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) became law January 1, 2021**
  - NIST Director to present congress with feasibility study on supply chain database within six months of enactment (July 1, 2021).
  - The DOD Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) is now the DOD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC).
  - Directs the Manufacturing USA Institutes to contract with MEP Centers to provide technical and workforce assistance for small and medium-sized manufactures as appropriate.
CARES Act Update

Centers reporting progress quarterly
• Reporting for 2020 Q4 (Dec. 30 end)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturers Contacted</td>
<td>202,874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Client Projects Completed</td>
<td>12,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Searches</td>
<td>8,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Matches</td>
<td>824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Center Engagements</td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CARES Act funding in review
• CARES Act 60-day report
  – March (GAO-104526)
  – Initial review complete, will be on-going

OIG Audit on Cares Act funding
• DOC initial review June 2020, will be on-going
Competitive Award Funding Update

(Rolling) Competitive Award Program (CAP): Awards Issued in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NY</th>
<th>Manufacturing Readiness for Contract Manufacturers</th>
<th>OH</th>
<th>Digital Maturity for SMMs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TN</td>
<td>Establish a MEPNN Advanced Technology Team</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>CMMC Training Course Development and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA</td>
<td>MEP Capabilities Expansion-MedMMAP Program Expansion</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>I 4.0 Regional Development and Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO</td>
<td>America Works: Coordinating MEPNN Workforce Development Programs</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Enhancement of the MEPNN Cybersecurity Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>Manufacturing Skills for Connecticut</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Enhancement of the MEPNN Cybersecurity Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>Industry Integration within a Baldridge Framework</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>Enhancement of the MEPNN Cybersecurity Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Released new CAP NOFO Dec. 28, 2020
- Replace initial CAP NOFO
- Funding limits:
  - Up to $500,000 for single state
  - Up to $2,000,000 for multi state

Revised Themes:
- Industry/Manufacturing 4.0
- Manufacturing Workforce Services to include Employee Recruitment, Retention and Employee Development
- Supply Chain Management and Resiliency
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Application
State Partnership Support Program – NOFO Released

The purpose of the MEP State Partnership Support Program is to generate strategies, market intelligence and analytical resources to support the efforts of MEP Centers, NIST MEP and the nation’s manufacturers to leverage all applicable resources available at the regional, state and local levels.

- Alignment of policy goals - state and national.

- Brings to manufacturers capabilities that they cannot access alone, offering a wide range of options to address challenges and offer practical solutions.

- Develop and enhance effective collaborative relationships with states and other stakeholders.
Several additions to the team are being made in 2021; up to four new Center Directors are in process of being added.
MEP National Network Center Leadership Team (CLT)

Regional Communications Nodes Continue

Background
Need to create more efficient and effective ways of connecting Centers around the country to build relationships, provide support, exchange ideas and information, catalyze learning and improve communications. Better connections form the basis for a faster and more flexible National Network.

Objectives

- Establish one-to-one connections between Center Directors and a Center Director on the National Network CLT.
- CLT members host 6 Regional Nodes to facilitate regular group conversations and create learning opportunities.
- Build closer and deeper relationships between and among Centers.
Information about CLT priorities, business issues and strategy are quickly disseminated throughout the MEP National Network.

Recent discussion at CLT Regional Nodes calls include Center’s business updates, expansion of MEP, diversity and inclusion and President Biden's Executive Order.

The structure improves access directly to CLT members and ensures that everyone in the National Network has a voice.

Regional Nodes meeting on a regular schedule, one or two times per month.
NIST MEP: National Network Support

Notable Center Service Areas

Cybersecurity

• Continued development of Center roles.
  • Assisting defense contractors with DFARS, CMMC.
  • Cyber integration into Industry 4.0 projects and manufacturer resilience.
• All 51 Centers participating in cybersecurity working group.

Advanced Manufacturing Technology/Industry 4.0

• Increased small manufacturer interest in Industry 4.0 resulting from pandemic and remote/virtual ops, workplace safety.
• Center service development assisted by NIST MEP special project awards and Industry 4.0 working group participation from most MEP Centers.
NIST MEP: National Network Support

Notable Center Service Areas

**MATTR**

- Continuing to operationalize at Centers (mainly via working group) and increase awareness, participation of NIST Labs – focus on MATTR value for manufacturers, Centers, NIST.
- Two CRADAs operating involving NIST Labs, MEP Center clients and NIST MEP.

**Food Industry Services/Food Safety**

- Continued strong national FDA partnership focused on food safety.
- All 51 Centers participating in Food Working Group.
Supplier Scouting

- Significant national, state activity – relating to pandemic and general supply chain needs.
- Connected to ‘Made in America’ Executive Order #14005 increasing national interest and participation.
- New working group formed in February 2021.

“The White House

Executive Order on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America’s Workers

“...Sec. 7. Supplier Scouting. To the extent appropriate and consistent with applicable law, agencies shall partner with the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), discussed in the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Improvement Act (title V of Public Law 114-329), to conduct supplier scouting in order to identify American companies, including small- and medium-sized companies, that are able to produce goods, products, and materials in the United States that meet Federal procurement needs…”

Harvard Business Review

Supply Chain | One Way to Build More Resilient Medical Supply Chains in the U.S.

“...By identifying and forming relationships now and adding firms to approved vendor lists, hospitals and health care facilities can pivot quickly during emergencies. For example, Maryland Made to Save Lives is a database that lists manufacturers in the state by area of expertise, allowing health care facilities to find alternate suppliers. Manufacturing Extension Partnership Programs, which run in every state, can similarly help match supply and potential demand…”
Responsive but not Proactive

Responsive and Proactive “Resilient”

Fragile

Responsive but Vulnerable

Ability to capitalize on opportunities

High

Low

Ability to recover from negative perturbations

High

Low

NIST MEP: National Network Support
Manufacturer/Supply Chain Resilience

Resilient = Responsive and Proactive
NIST MEP: National Network Support
Manufacturer/Supply Chain Resilience

- **Focus on, and MEPNN activities in, MEP Manufacturer Resilience assistance is growing**
  - NIST MEP, MEP Centers collaboratively developing Manufacturer Resilience Framework (suite of tools, assessments, services) for Centers to offer SMMs.
  - Includes systems perspective applying to:
    - Supply chain inputs, in-factory processes, customer and market outputs

- **MEP Resilience assistance to U.S. manufacturers includes:**
  - Pandemic response, incl. pivoting to new production, new customers/markets
  - Supplier Scouting - identify new suppliers, customers, markets
  - Disaster recovery and continuity of operations (COOP)
  - Business assessments/situational awareness
  - Supply chain visibility and sourcing strategies
  - Advanced Manufacturing Technology awareness and integration
  - Production processes and strategies
  - Cybersecurity and risk management
NIST MEP: National Network Support Center
Reviews: 2021

Panel Reviews

Third and eighth-year.
- Currently conducting two eighth-year reviews (AZ/MD).
- August 2021 – one eight-year review (NE).

Secretarial Reviews

During fifth-year (determination for second five-year cooperative agreement).
- Round 3 and 4 Centers (total of 24 Centers) will have their year 5 Annual/Secretarial Reviews – Spring/Fall 2021.

Annual Reviews

48 Centers (includes 24 going through a YR5/Secretarial Review).
NIST MEP and MEP Centers: National Network Collaboration

NIST MEP held 11 roundtable sessions with manufacturing leaders from late July - early October 2020.

- 50 manufacturers, 27 states represented, and diverse industries.

• Common themes:
  
  - **Opportunities**: Adapting new leadership styles, increasing communication with staff and building networks of C-suite colleagues, adopting more flexible production cycles (evenings, fewer days, etc.), and working with local MEP Center.
  
  - **Challenges**: Recruiting, retaining and training staff, increased cost and energy of keeping staff safe, lack of childcare, and importance of innovation and thinking beyond the pandemic.
  
  - **Overall Message**: Manufacturers faced the greatest challenges in the beginning of the pandemic and quickly adapted to keep their employees safe, continue operations and build better relationships with suppliers and networks.

Preliminary recommendations from panelists include continue traditional MEP services, serve as a clearing house for best practices, provide connections for growth, anticipate future needs and assist in deploying new technologies.
NIST MEP and MEP Centers: National Network Collaboration

• Deliverables from the Roundtables:
  – Blogs detailing themes and highlights from each session:
    • NIST MEP Website: https://www.nist.gov/blogs/manufacturing-innovation-blog
    • Majority are published; last few over the coming weeks
  – Review recordings of each event
    • MEP Connect: https://tinyurl.com/MEPmfgConvo2020
  – Report will inform implementation plan for recommendations.
    • Slated for March 2021
Survey Results: MEP FY20 Impacts

105,748 JOBS Created or Retained

$13.0 BILLION in New and Retained Sales

$4.9 BILLION in Total Investment in U.S. Manufacturing

$2.7 BILLION in Cost Savings

Results are based on FY 2020 MEP National Network Client Impact Survey
Survey Results: MEP Impacts Over Time

Program Impacts

Fiscal Year

New Investments
Cost Savings
Federal Funding
New Sales

In February 2021, Summit Consulting and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research published a study that found the MEP program generated a **substantial return on investment** of nearly **13.6:1** for the **$146 million** invested in FY 2020 by the federal government.

**JOBS**
252,000

**GDP**
$20.9 Billion

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**
13.6:1
Progress Update: MEPNN Strategic Plan 2017-2022

- Empower Manufacturers
- Champion Manufacturers
- Leverage Partnerships
- Transform the Network
1. **Consensus Within Integrated National Network**
   Reach Network consensus on definition of Project and CME (client manufacturing establishment) interaction.

2. **Center and Program Office Operational Excellence**
   Operationally improve reporting via measurement of on-time and accurate reporting.

3. **Increased Visibility**
   Amplify and measure Network brand awareness by at least 10%.

4. **Increase Projects and New Clients**
   Increase reported projects by 10% and reported new clients by 5%.

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**18 Month Measures of Success**
9/2019-3/2021

**Progress to Date**
18 Month Measures of Success — Progress to Date

Measure 1: Consensus Within Integrated National Network

Define:
- Client/project
- Client manufacturing establishment interaction
- Working Group of Center Directors established

Measure 2: Center and Program Office Operational Excellence

Four Elements Measured:
- Progress plan
- Progress data
- Success story
- Survey confirmation

Baseline (Q2 2019):
- 40 Centers reported on time with the first three elements.
- 24 Centers reported on time across all four elements.

Progress to Date (Q4 2020):
- 43 Centers reported on time with first three elements. Positive increase of 8%.
- 31 Centers reported on time across all four elements. Positive increase of 29%.

Historic program definitions of terms have been identified and catalogued. Center Director Working Group is identified and will reconvene in the summer of 2021.
18 Month Measures of Success — Progress to Date

Measure 3: Increased Visibility by Amplifying Network Brand Awareness by at Least 10%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand Measure</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Progress To Date*</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#MEPNationalNetwork Hashtag Occurrences</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>+57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brand Mentions</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>+50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing Innovation Blog Subscribers</td>
<td>24,920</td>
<td>36,480</td>
<td>27,412</td>
<td>+46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backlinks</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>+36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media Followers</td>
<td>16,240</td>
<td>17,702</td>
<td>17,864</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 Month Measures of Success — Progress to Date

**Goal: Increase Projects by 10%**
Outcome: Increase of 21%

**Goal: Increase New Clients by 5%**
Outcome: Increase of 37%

Measure 4: Increase Projects and New Clients
NIST MEP
Operational Update
NIST Campus Locations Status

- All NIST staff including NIST MEP staff were on mandatory telework from mid-March until early July, and now on maximum telework.

- NIST phased re-opening emphasizes employee safety and focuses on laboratory staff having access to labs.

- NIST staff remain on maximum telework; 90% of all staff for an extended period returning in later phases.

- NIST MEP Move Back In Committee has met monthly and 301 office construction has nearly concluded.
NIST MEP Org Chart FY21

480 Rob Ivester
Acting MEP Director

Staff Resource Management
Monica Claussen
Monyelle Minga (AO 480, 486)
Michele Montgomery

Rob Ivester
Deputy Director

486
Finance Management &
Center Operations Division
Kevin McIntyre, Chief
Achimme Montague

Finance/Administration
Autumn Hernandez (AO 481, 489)
Heather Mayton, XO

486.01
Center Operations Group
Nadine DeJesus, Group Manager
Mellissa Ayala (On Detail)
Sekou Johnson
Andrew Nobleman
Julia Shimer
Hope Snowden
Gloria Solomon

487
Regional & State
Partnerships Division
Mark Schmitt, Chief
Carol Shibley
Anthony Diaz
Dimitrios Merits (On Detail)
Kim Pinckney

Anita Balachandra
Jose Colucci-Rios
Tony Mastalski
Gerson Santos-Leon
Phil Wadsworth
Tom Williams

488
Extension Services
Division
Dave Stieren, Chief
Robert Barnes
Doug Devereaux
Brian Lagas
Celia Paulsen
Andrew Peterson
Michael Taylor
Dileep Thatte
Marlon Walker
Samm Webb

489
Network Learning & Strategic
Competitions Division
Mary Ann Pacelli, Chief
Wiza Leguin
Sheena Simmons
Mike Simpson
Michael Wilson

481
External Affairs, Performance
& Support Division
Chancy Lyford, Chief

Team IT Security & Support
Kathy Martin
Justin Mocca
Bryan Wade

481.01
Marketing &
Communications Group
Ben Vickery, Group Manager
Nicole Ausherman
Cheryl Gendron
Katie Rapp
Jennifer Rosa

481.02
Program Evaluation &
Economic Research Group
Chancy Lyford,
Acting Group Manager
Megean Blum
Stephen Campbell
Kim Coffman
Missy Davis
Diane Henderson
Holly Jackson
Megan Spangler
Nico Thomas
Ken Voytek

Last Updated February 16, 2021
MEP Advisory Board Featured Presentation

MEP: 1988 to Now – Three Meaningful Legislative Reforms

Chancy Lyford
NIST MEP
Division Chief for External Affairs, Performance & Support
Strategic Planning Foundation

Rob Ivester
NIST MEP
Acting Director

Lisë Stewart
Eisner Ampner
Principal-in-Charge,
Center for Family Business Excellence
Strategic Planning Starts Here

How it all begins:

• Funding in the federal system
• The MEP program within this system
• Expanding our sphere of influence
• Strategic Plan: the steps towards this expansion to achieve overall vision
Funding in the Federal System:

• Amends: MEP Program Authorization
  – ‘American Innovation and Competitiveness Act’, 2017
  – Resources:
    • Full Act: http://tinyurl.com/2017MEPStatute
      – Title V, Manufacturing
        » P. 55
    • The full MEP Authorization, as amended
      – https://tinyurl.com/MEPstatuteLanguage
Growing the MEP Program

Total Appropriated Funds: $1.4 Trillion

FY21 FUNDING

Division A  Division B  Division C  Division D  Division E  Division F
Division G  Division H  Division I  Division J  Division K  Division L

CJS - 5%

Defense 47%

CJS $71.12B (5%)
DOC $14.5B (20%)
NIST $1.034B (7%)
MEP $150M (14%)
MEP Priorities

1. Improve security/resiliency of domestic supply chain for critical products

2. Actualize/realize vision of the MEP National Network

3. MEP is recognized as the go-to program for manufacturing
MEP Priority Mapping

- Improve security/resiliency of domestic supply chain for critical products
- Actualize/realize vision of the MEP National Network
- MEP is recognized as the go-to program for manufacturing
Strategic Planning the Road Map to the Future

Current State

- CLT, Regional Nodes
- MEPNN
- 2017-2022 Strategic Plan

Future State

- Supply chain resiliency for domestic critical parts
- MEP is the go-to program for manufacturing
- Realize vision of the MEP National Network
MAB Advisory Board: Nexus

- MEP National Network
- MEP Advisory Board
- Manufacturing Ecosystems
- Federal, State and Local Government Ecosystems
The MEP Advisory Board – Leadership Governance
3 Key Elements of Leadership Governance

- Fiduciary
- Framing
- Strategic
Creating a foundation to frame truly inspirational thinking...

- Know
- This is complex, ambiguous
- Current assumptions
- Level of risk
- The current paradigm

“Generative thinking produces a sense of what knowledge, information and data mean.”
- Governance as Leadership p. 84

- Explore
- What frame are you using to ‘see’ the organization:
  - **Structural**: policies, procedures, rules and regs.
  - **Human Capital**: people, fit, fulfillment, skills, professional dev.
  - **Political**: partners, constituents, bargaining, advocacy, allocation of resources.
  - **Symbolic**: values, culture, beliefs, stories, history, rituals.
What additional ‘frames’ should we consider?

- Political
- ?
Changing our approach to strategy development...

Boards need to pay attention to the big picture – the complete panorama of possibilities. This includes understanding target markets, the value proposition, desired impacts and operating structures.

Questions might include:

1. Do we have the **right business model**?
2. Do we provide the **right services**?
3. Are we serving the **right people**?
4. What is the **future** of manufacturing?
5. Who is our **competition**?
6. Why should we be **funded**?
7. Who should be our **partners**?
Things to think about...

- How will we know we are successful?
- How will we know when to pivot?
- What are the global/national cues to monitor?
- Who/what are our greatest leverage points?
- How can we hold ourselves accountable?
MEP Advisory Board Working Group Updates
MEPNN Strategic Plan Working Group 2023-2028

• Committee members
  – Board leadership
    Kathay Rennels
  – Board members
    Don Bockoven, Kevin Heller, Mary Isbister,
    Willie May, Matt Newman, Jim Wright
  – Ex-officio support
    Bernadine Hawes (Immediate Past-Chair)
  – NIST MEP support
    Rob Ivester, Wiza Lequin, Cheryl Gendron

• Deliverable
  – To provide long-term, program direction, guidance and perspectives for the MEP National Network Strategic Plan for 2023-2028. The WG will consider feedback from Centers, stakeholders, partners, management and staff as the plan is developed.
Discussion: Strategic Planning the Discovery Phase

• Identifying holes and challenges
  – How and what?
  – i.e. new paradigms arise (pandemic, etc.)

• Building a new future
  – Economic productivity/workforce
  – Globally competitive/manufacturing

• Creating a foundation to frame truly inspirational thinking
  – Exploring an expansion of services
  – ESG, what other frames

• Sharing with the Network
  – Cohesive vision
  – Defined roles and responsibilities
  – MEPNN plan is the foundation the Centers will be building on

NIST MEP seeks ongoing Advisory Board perspectives on these MEPNN focus areas, approaches, challenges.
Supply Chain Development Working Group

- **Members**
  - Board leadership
    - Don Bockoven
  - Board members
    - Ray Aguerrevere, LaDon Byars, Mary Isbister, Matt Newman
  - NIST MEP support
    - Rob Ivester, Dave Stieren, Mark Schmit

- **Deliverable**
  - Guidance and perspectives on the MEP National Network support and development of manufacturing supply chains with an emphasis on defense suppliers regarding Defense Industrial Base gaps; and expertise on who should be brought into the discussion to provide insight on defense supplier gaps.
Discussion Topics for the Board

The MEP National Network supports DOD supply chains in many areas, highlighted by:

- Cybersecurity awareness and assistance
- Many diverse aspects of supply chain development

NIST MEP seeks ongoing Advisory Board perspectives on these MEP National Network focus areas, approaches, challenges – and their alignment with the MEP Strategic Plan.
2021 is Different Than 2020

Some National-Level Influences on MEP Program

• U.S. manufacturing and supply chains are prominent in ongoing policy discussions and planning.

• MEP is being recognized as important program that contributes to national and economic security and national health.
  
  — “Supply chain” and “resilience” frequently mentioned; each term has many meanings.


• President Biden Executive Orders and new/developing initiatives – MEP mention and intersections.
MEP and Manufacturer/Supply Chain Resilience

**MEPNN focus on and activities in manufacturer/supply chain resilience assistance is growing.**

- NIST MEP, MEP Centers collaboratively developing Manufacturer Resilience Framework (suite of tools, assessments, services) for Centers to offer to SMMs to increase national capabilities and capacities

- Includes systems perspective applying to:
  - Supply chain inputs, in-factory processes, customer and market outputs

- MEP Resilience assistance to U.S. manufacturers includes:
  - Pandemic response, incl. pivot to new production, new customers/markets
  - Supplier scouting - identify new suppliers, customers, markets
  - Disaster recovery and continuity of operations (COOP)
  - Business assessments/situational awareness
  - Supply chain visibility and sourcing strategies
  - Advanced manufacturing technology awareness and integration
  - Production processes and strategies
  - Cybersecurity and risk management

![Diagram of Resilience](image-url)
The Remainder of Today’s Briefing

• Cybersecurity Update

• 2021 NDAA

• EO14005 – ‘Made in America’

• MEP Supplier Scouting
MEP National Network continues to develop strong nationwide capabilities to provide cybersecurity assistance for small manufacturers.

- Continues to be spurred by strong DOD partnerships.
- MEP role continuing with Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) requirements for defense sector and evolving for DOD Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program.
- Continued emphasis on risk management for all manufacturing industries served by MEP Centers.
- Importance of cybersecurity also being highlighted by opportunities relating to Industry 4.0 and manufacturer/supply chain resilience.

- MEP Centers nationwide providing cybersecurity services
- All 51 Centers participating in MEPNN cybersecurity WG
2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

- Passed Jan. 1, 2021; specifies DOD budget, expenditures, policies for FY 2021.
  - NDAA is an authorization, not an appropriation.
- NIST MEP working with MEP Centers to ensure awareness, understanding of MEP-relevant sections.
- MEP communicating with and stands ready to assist DOD as appropriate.

References to MEP program

- Sec. 1738 Assistance for Small Manufacturers in the Defense Industrial Supply Chain on Matters Relating to Cybersecurity.
- Sec. 9413 National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program Supply Chain Database.
- Sec. 9415 Coordination [by Manufacturing USA Institutes] with Hollings MEP Centers.
Executive Order 14005 – ‘Made in America’

Executive Order on Ensuring the Future Is Made in All of America by All of America’s Workers, signed Jan. 25, 2021.

• Section 1. Policy. “… The United States Government should, whenever possible, procure goods, products, materials, and services from sources that will help American businesses compete in strategic industries and help America’s workers thrive.”

• Sec. 7. Supplier Scouting. “To the extent appropriate and consistent with applicable law, agencies shall partner with the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), … to conduct supplier scouting in order to identify American companies, including small- and medium-sized companies, that are able to produce goods, products, and materials in the United States that meet Federal procurement needs.”

”We will use a national network of manufacturers — called a Manufacturing Extension Partnership — that’s in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, to help government agency connect with new domestic suppliers across the country.”

President Biden EO signing remarks
MEP Supplier Scouting

• 2009 MEP began national-scale supplier scouting in response to Buy America(n) provisions connected to ARRA-funded federal procurements.

• Evolution to state-by-state conduct of supplier scouting since 2009 to meet diverse supply chain sourcing needs, including pandemic response at national and state levels mobilized in 2020 for critical-need medical supplies/equipment.

Drivers for MEP supplier scouting:

• Identify domestic supply sources for government and commercial supply chains across multiple markets: transportation, defense and aerospace, energy, consumer goods, medical supplies/equipment (including PPE).

• Domestic sourcing analyses for federal agencies in response to Buy America(n) waiver requests (2009-2016).

• Creation of competitive federal procurement opportunities to replace those that were previously sole sourced (2011-2015).

Key to MEP supplier scouting success: MEPNN direct connections to U.S. manufacturers.
Discussion

This MAB Supply Chain WG is now more broadly focused on MEPNN efforts extending beyond DOD support to reflect broadened focus for the program.

NIST MEP seeks ongoing Advisory Board perspectives on these MEPNN focus areas, approaches and challenges.
Executive Committee Working Group

• Committee members
  – Board leadership
    Mary Isbister
  – Board members
    Mitch Magee, Pat Moulton, Matt Newman, George Spottswood
  – NIST MEP support
    Rob Ivester, Cheryl Gendron, Phill Wadsworth, Wiza Lequin

• Deliverable
  – Provide guidance on future MEP Advisory Board leadership and membership recruitment, provide insights into cultivating strong Board governance as well as explore ways to expand the MEP Advisory Board’s role in regard to the local MEP Center Boards.
MEP Advisory Board: Local Center Board Outreach

Slow and steady opportunities to create connection with volunteers across the Network.

– 51 Center Board Directors divided between the MAB membership.
– Connections made over the last year include informal conversations and attendance at board meetings; continuing into 2021.

• Discussions Around:

– How has the current pandemic impacted your Center operations?
– How has the Center adapted/responded to the changes? What are your immediate priorities as a result?
– What are the key problems and issues that you think will be important to small manufacturers and their competitiveness and opportunities for growth in the near-term (1 to 2 years) and mid-term (3 to 5 years)?
– What advanced manufacturing technologies are and/or will be needed by small U.S. manufacturers for the companies to be competitive and grow in the global marketplace in the near-term (1 to 2 years) and mid-term (3 to 5 years)?
– What technologies or business models are important to you for the supply chain you currently participate in or those supply chains you choose to participate in the future?

Center Board Outreach Program Goal:
Enhance strength of relationships between national and local boards
MEP Advisory Board: Other Discussion Topics

- **Succession planning into the future**
  - Additional board members being added each year.
  - Goals - diverse membership with matching the statutory requirements.
  - Appointed by the NIST Director with support of NIST MEP staff and the Executive Committee Working Group.

- **2020 MEP Advisory Board Report coming soon**
  - Will be submitted to the DOC in the coming weeks.
  - DOC will approve and distribute to Congress.
  - Once with congressional representatives the report will be published on the NIST MEP website.

- **Support for our MEP Advisory Board**
  - Historic reports and current documents on MEP Connect.
  - *NIST MEP is here to support our National Advisory Board; let us know how we can help.*
Future Meeting Schedule

2021
Planning is Underway
Details Coming Soon

June 30, 2021
• Virtual or Tulsa, Oklahoma

August 31, 2021
• Virtual or Phoenix, Arizona
• *In conjunction with the MEP National Network Update Meeting and FORME Best Practice Conference*
Thank You

For the Full Presentation, Please contact Cheryl Gendron at Cheryl.Gendron@nist.gov

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