MEP AT OHIO STATE OVERVIEW

As the largest industry sector in the state of Ohio, accounting for 17% of the state’s GDP, manufacturing is critical to Ohio’s economy and future. Small and Medium Manufacturing Entities (SMMEs) represent over 90% of all of the manufacturing companies in Ohio. While these companies represent the engine of growth for the state, there are many challenges they have to overcome to achieve that growth.

The Ohio State University’s Center for Design and Manufacturing Excellence (CDME) has been chosen by the Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA) to support the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). This program is a logical extension of The Ohio State University’s land grant mission and will provide access to the resources of the university for SMMEs in the 15 county Central Ohio region.

The MEP initiative at Ohio State will focus on providing value-added manufacturing consulting services to the identified SMMEs in our region. The initiative will also create and maintain a network of regional support partners assist these companies in the execution of their growth plans. SMME potential clients will not be charged any fees for initial consultations.

CDME’S MEP SERVICE OFFERINGS

- Product Innovation – CDME will work with engaged SMME clients to assist with the development of new products or improvement of existing product lines. CDME’s staff have a firm understanding of design to manufacturing process. CDME provides SMMEs easy access to facilities and innovative research at The Ohio State University in a cost effective manner.

- Continuous Improvement – CDME will guidance on lean manufacturing as well as product cost reduction through optimization. These services will be provided by CDME and their partner the Center for Operational Excellence.

- Business Development – CDME will work with engaged client companies to develop strategic growth plans. These plans may focus on competitive landscape analysis, partner identification, supply chain management, new market analysis and others. These services will be provided by CDME and their partner the Technology and Entrepreneurship Commercialization (TEC) Institute.

- Workforce Development – CDME, and the partner network, will provide a series of educational events and workshops designed to provide SMME employees with insight into relevant issues. Additionally, CDME will work with engaged clients to assist with the recruitment of top notched students from Ohio State and other universities in the region.
GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- Connecting Ohio State’s land grant mission to Central Ohio’s SMMEs through focused and client-centric engagements.
- Leveraging and providing easy access to the faculty, facilities, and equipment of Ohio State for the State of Ohio manufacturing community.
- Providing business and engineering value-added advisory and execution services to address the growth challenges of SMMEs in Ohio.
- Contributing to economic development growth by supporting investment, business development, supply chain management, and partnering opportunities in the Central Ohio region.
- Developing a future pool of manufacturing leadership through CDME’s student experiential learning programs.
- Create and maintain an engaged and supportive network of public and private partners to support the growth of SMMEs.

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