

Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership Sponsors Volusia Manufacturers Association Upcoming Manufacturers Expo 2011

The Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a branch of the U.S. Department of Commerce, actively works for local Volusia and Flagler County manufacturers by sponsoring the Fifth Annual VMA Manufacturers Expo 2011 on September 22, 2011.

August 31, 2011 (FPRC) -- The Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) recently became a platinum sponsor for the upcoming Volusia Manufacturers Expo 2011. Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Florida MEP) is part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) and the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and is a highly qualified team of technical, manufacturing, and business specialists that is a superb, valuable resource for manufacturers and manufacturing in Florida. The National Institute of Standards and Technology's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is the #1 resource for U.S. manufacturers, a catalyst for strengthening American manufacturing, accelerating its ongoing transformation into a more efficient and powerful engine of innovation driving economic growth and job creation.

A strong manufacturing base is critical to the financial and national security of the United States. U.S. Manufacturing firms employ over 13 million people in high-paying jobs with benefits, representing two-thirds of the total U.S. research and development expenditures, and account for more than 80% of all U.S. exports. If the U.S. Manufacturing Sector were a country, it would be the 8th largest country in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) in the world. Manufacturing creates millions of jobs, directly and indirectly, in a wide range of industries. Beyond the services supporting the extended manufacturing enterprise, the broader U.S. service economy also depends on the adoption of technologies from the manufacturing sector to keep pace with global competition. To be positioned for survival and more importantly growth, manufacturers need to address five areas concurrently: Continuous improvement, Technology Acceleration, Supply Chain, Sustainability, and Workforce. Both a strong framework and resources are needed to provide manufacturers the ability to address these critical areas and establish defendable competitive advantage. Manufacturers' management and integration of each of these interrelated, interdependent areas will determine their ability to protect and grow profits and compete in the long term.

As a result of MEP assistance, Florida MEP clients achieve higher profits, save time and money, invest in physical and human capital, and create and retain thousands of jobs. In addition to providing services to manufacturers focused on everything from process improvements, to strategies for growth, to green manufacturing; the MEP works with state and federal partners to implement ideas and strategies so that manufacturers are more efficient and innovative, resulting in overall economic growth and job creation. MEP goals are to help manufacturers to develop new customers, expand into new markets and create new products with the end goal of increasing profitability and competitiveness.

The Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Florida MEP) is focused on Florida's manufacturers and Florida's manufacturing economy and is able to leverage many public and private resources so that they are available for every manufacturing enterprise in Florida. The nationwide system of MEP centers is linked through the U.S. Department of Commerce through its National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), with the common, important goal: to

strengthen the global competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.

Florida MEP takes an active role in the manufacturer's operations and offers unique solutions for enterprise transformation, operational improvements, lean improvements, ISO certifications, Quality Management System (QMS) issues, plant design improvements, or additions. The Florida MEP also offers affordable employee training programs ranging from individual employee skills such as supervisory training to effective lean training techniques (Time Wise Solutions®). Also, Florida MEP's Time Wise Mobile Outreach Skills Training® (M.O.S.T.) has been extremely successful in training people with little or no manufacturing experience and allowing them to get the job offer; retain the training information up to 270 days post placement; and increase their annual salary significantly. Time Wise M.O.S.T. training has provided opportunities for trainees to lift their families out of poverty and position them on career paths that offer long-term growth and higher earnings it is a proven program, it's mobile as it goes where the jobs and potential workers are, and it has a rapid return on investment of federal dollars on a per-job basis.

Florida MEP's Upcoming Training events include such topics as Recalibrating Your Revenue Engine, and SupplyPoint® Proposal and Assistance Training. The Florida MEP is also offering a special Trade Mission Business Expo in Sao Paulo, Brazil in October 2011 in an effort to connect Florida manufacturers and a large audience of Brazilian companies to enter or expand their market share in Brazil. The agenda will enable companies to meet and interact with top level corporate and government leaders, as well as, market their products and services at the Florida Business Expo and Matchmaker, to a large number of Brazilian companies interested in Florida.

The Florida MEP also assists manufacturers in supply chain management, working with manufacturing suppliers to develop an integrated, rapidly responding manufacturing supply chain. Florida MEP can assist in developing a "Demand Pull" system which identifies, addresses, and finds solutions for supply shortages and identifies surge requirements with adaptation to existing industry capacity. The Florida MEP Innovation Program helps business with identification and integration of new, innovative technologies, or assistance with transfer of technologies, and development of new product commercialization strategies. The Florida MEP provides the experience and the methodology that helps local manufacturers achieve the right focus and become globally competitive.

The Florida MEP has been actively involved with the Volusia Manufacturers Association for many years, providing local Volusia and Flagler county manufacturers training, support, education, and advice to assist local manufacturers in growing their businesses and becoming successful. VMA's President/CEO, Jayne Fifer stated, "The Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership has been an actively committed member of the VMA for many years, supporting local manufacturing by providing outstanding training and guidance services, keeping the manufacturers up to date with changes in ISO manufacturing regulations and helping them to obtain certifications and offering training for manufacturing employees. The Florida MEP often speaks to the VMA group members educating them on new standards or new manufacturing techniques because they know that companies that are ISO certified or have employees who are trained are better equipped to thrive in today's competitive global market."

The Volusia Manufacturers Association (VMA) is proud to announce that they will be hosting the Fifth Annual Manufacturers Expo for Daytona Beach Area Manufacturers. Jayne Fifer, President and CEO of the Volusia Manufacturers Association said, "Each Year the Volusia Manufacturers Association Manufacturers Expo keeps growing, and this year, we've already set a new record for

the number of Manufacturer participants. “ To accommodate all the Manufacturers and expected participants, the Volusia Manufacturers Association has again chosen the world renowned Ocean Center in Daytona Beach, Florida, for the event. The Volusia Manufacturers Association Manufacturers Expo for 2011 will be held on September 22, 2011 from 3:00 – 8:00 P.M.

The VMA Manufacturers Expo is the only place to find local Daytona Beach manufacturing Area suppliers and service providers all under one roof! This unique event facilitates open discussion among manufacturers and participants, encouraging cooperation amongst local manufacturers to create extraordinary and successful business potentials. Manufacturers have opportunities to showcase their talents or goods to attending participants. Manufacturers additionally can interact with other local manufacturers. Attendance for the VMA Manufacturing Expo is free, but you need to RSVP for the event at http://www.vmaonline.com/EXPO/EXPO_Registration.asp . Manufacturers interested in participation can also download the table maps on this same page, with parking information also provided. Table placement is on a first come, first serve basis. A news broadcast from Volusia Magazine’s Business Beat and a video from the Daytona State College Center for Business and Industry can be watched on this page from last year’s event.

Those Volusia Manufacturers Association Members who are Platinum sponsors for the 2011 VMA Manufacturers Expo are Sparton Electronics, Daytona Beach News Journal, Volusia County Economic Development, Center for Business Excellence, Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Florida Power & Light, James Moore & Co., Magga Products, TD Bank, Innovative Service Solutions, Bank of America and Macro Transport.

“The VMA Manufacturers Expo has been hugely successful over the last four years, allowing local companies to draw on local manufacturing skills and talent to support local businesses and the local economy,” says Jayne Fifer, President/CEO of the Volusia Manufacturers Association. Fifer also said, “We are proud of our local manufacturing talent and proud to host this year’s event to show the importance of Daytona Beach Area Manufacturers.”

The Volusia Manufacturers Association has been dedicated to supporting local Manufacturing Companies for over 30 years. The Volusia Manufacturers Association is committed to local manufacturers and dedicated to providing information, education, and networking opportunities for the manufacturers in Volusia County and the region.

For more information, please check out <http://www.vmaonline.com/EXPO/> or contact Jayne Fifer directly. There are additional opportunities for sponsorship. If interested, please contact Jayne Fifer.

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VMA Expo Event held at the:
Daytona Beach Ocean Center
101 N. Atlantic Ave.,

Daytona Beach, FL
Ocean Center Ballroom

About Volusia Manufacturers Association:

The Volusia Manufacturers Association was founded in 1980 in Ormond Beach, Florida by manufacturers for manufacturers. Volusia Manufacturers Association provides information, education and networking opportunities to help manufacturers grow and succeed. VMA are made up of companies that range in size from one employee to over 500. If you are interested in joining the Volusia Manufacturers Association, please visit <http://www.vmaonline.com>.

Contact Information

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