



John R. Kasich  
Governor

David Goodman  
Director

[www.development.ohio.gov](http://www.development.ohio.gov)



**For Immediate Release**  
April 5, 2016

**Contact:** Morgan Bleich-Lee at (614) 728-0989  
[Morgan.Bleich-Lee@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Morgan.Bleich-Lee@development.ohio.gov)

Lisa Colbert at (614) 466-6212  
[Lisa.Colbert@development.ohio.gov](mailto:Lisa.Colbert@development.ohio.gov)

## Ohio Receiving \$26.2 Million to Help Manufacturers

Ohio's manufacturers will benefit from a new five-year round of federal funding for the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Ohio MEP). The program supports Ohio small and medium-sized manufacturers by providing products, services and assistance to increase their productivity, growth and global competitiveness.

"Manufacturing leads the way in high-paying jobs for Ohio, providing [\\$37 billion](#) in annual payroll," said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. "We want to provide the best customer service to Ohio manufacturers."

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is allocating \$5.25 million per year to the Ohio MEP through 2021. With funds matched by state and local partners, this unique program represents more than \$80 million to assist Ohio manufacturers over the next five years.

The Ohio Development Services Agency (DSA) currently administers the Ohio MEP through six regional partners, and is once again competing to manage this program for the state of Ohio. In order to maintain the highest quality services for Ohio manufacturers, DSA will be conducting a competition to select the Ohio MEP regional partners. Non-profit organizations, economic development authorities and educational institutions with strong experience in manufacturing technologies and manufacturing management will be eligible for the program.

The request for proposals is currently planned for mid-May, with awards planned for late September pending the results of NIST's national award process.

The Ohio MEP, managed by DSA's Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, is a state and federal initiative to develop and deploy technology, management and technical expertise for improving the competitiveness of manufacturers. For more information about the Ohio MEP, visit: [https://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs\\_mep.htm](https://www.development.ohio.gov/bs/bs_mep.htm)

##