Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center

The Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC) was founded in 1991 with a simple purpose: to help companies realize never ending growth in the rapidly changing global marketplace.

MAMTC is a not-for-profit corporation that is supported by a public and private partnership of Kansas companies, the Kansas Department of Commerce and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP). NIST MEP is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce with a mission to help make American businesses more innovative at home and more competitive abroad.

MAMTC works directly with area manufacturers to provide expertise and services tailored to their most critical needs, ranging from process improvement and workforce development, to business practices, exporting and supply chain. Additionally MAMTC connects manufacturers with government and trade associations, universities and research laboratories and a host of other public and private resources to help them realize individual goals.

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ECONOMIC IMPACT

 MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2016

- **$375.6 Million** Total Increased/Retained Sales
- **5,866** Total Increased/Retained Jobs
- **$394.2 Million** New Client Investments
- **$132.1 Million** Cost Savings
“We have more sophisticated equipment now. Specifications can be so much closer than when we had to torch parts for assembly. Our plasma torch can cut to within a thousandth of an inch. I don’t see technology replacing people, it’s improving efficiency and quality.” Mike Gerken, Chief Operating Officer

WORKFORCE STRATEGIES BENEFIT MANUFACTURER AND THE COMMUNITY

ABOUT. Hillsboro Industries is a small manufacturing plant in Hillsboro, Kansas that produces high-end trailers and truck beds. They are located in a rural part of the state, not close enough to an urban area that often has key resources for a manufacturing company. The company employs approximately 55 people.

THE CHALLENGE. Modern factories cover a range of skills, from non-skilled positions like shipping or washing truck beds, to skilled jobs like welding or machinery operation. To make an average truck bed on its production line, Hillsboro Industries needs aluminum, equipment and technology, and a trained and efficient workforce to manufacture it. The materials and equipment are relatively easy to acquire. The purchasing and maintenance departments keep these activities in check. By the same token, aluminum is not an easy material to weld, and a company can’t afford to do a great deal of hands on training with a temperamental material like aluminum. A trained efficient workforce in a smaller, rural community is not easy to acquire and retain. This is where the relationship with Hutchinson Community College (HCC) comes in, partnering with the Mid-America Manufacturing Technology Center (MAMTC), a NIST MEP affiliate.

MEP’S ROLE. HCC is located in the south-central part of Kansas, approximately 60 miles from Hillsboro Industries. Today, HCC provides a variety of training and education to the Hillsboro Community, many of whom become full-time employees with Hillsboro Industries. As important to the company, the individual and the community, oftentimes the newly trained worker will stay in Hillsboro, countering the effect that often happens when high school graduates go to college and don’t return to the smaller towns. In some of the most recent training opportunities, HCC has provided Hillsboro Industries employees and Hillsboro citizens classes in shop math, blueprint reading, safety, MIG welding, and aluminum MIG welding.

RESULTS

$900,000 increased/retained sales
7 new/retained jobs
$40,000 in cost savings
$770,000 in new investments