West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership

The West Virginia University Industrial Extension Service, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) are focused on helping West Virginia businesses improve competitiveness in the local and global markets. WMEP accomplishes this mission through delivering foundational support and innovative growth services.

Foundational support services range from manufacturing process improvement and quality systems to health and safety, energy assessments, and more. The focus of these services is to maximize your productivity and optimize the knowledge of your workforce.

Innovative growth services include innovation, product design, supply chain development, export assistance and training, and access to multiple national product and marketing opportunities. The focus of these services is to develop new products, utilize new technology, and access new national and global markets.

Combining the expertise of the MEP with the resources of West Virginia University allows industrial extension to address a broad range of issues confronting West Virginia industries.

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ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2017

$31 Million
Total Increased/Retained Sales

453
Total Increased/Retained Jobs

$6.1 Million
New Client Investments

$1 Million
Cost Savings
"Due to invaluable support from WVMEP, my business has the blueprints to expand its market share...[we have] layouts of equipment, product movement, and services that this business could never have secured without the assistance of this program."

Anthony Figaretti, President

GROWTH AT FAMILY-OWNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE COMPANY

ABOUT. Anna and Guiseppe Figaretti, along with their five sons, began packaging and selling spaghetti sauce to local grocery stores in the early 1940s. Today, Tony Figaratti carries on this family tradition, still producing his great grandmother's sauce, which has found its way onto the shelves of produce, gourmet, and specialty shops in West Virginia and Ohio. Based in Wheeling, West Virginia, Figaretti Manufacturing and Distribution has two employees.

THE CHALLENGE. When Firgaretti Manufacturing and Distribution secured a deal with Kroger, the company expanded its product reach to more than 30 states, with more growth potential on the horizon. Around the same time, a nearby vacant building became available. The building was previously used for food production and presented an excellent opportunity for Figaretti Manufacturing and Distribution to move to a much larger facility. With increased business, the company now had ample room for growth and expansion. It contacted the West Virginia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (WVMEP), a NIST MEP affiliate, for assistance in moving operations and building capacity.

MEP’S ROLE. Figaretti needed to work out how its existing operation, along with the planned expansion and new equipment, would fit into the new space. First, consultants from WVMEP created layout drawings for both the old and new facilities. They developed process maps to see how additional automation and increased business would impact existing processes, and presented the proposed layouts to the company for discussion. After walking through the layouts at the new facility, company leaders gained a clear understanding of how the existing process would fit and where they needed to make adjustments to accommodate the new additions. At the end of the project, WVMEP presented a final set of drawings and process maps outlining the future so that the company can use the information to support continuous improvement projects and opportunities for future growth.

RESULTS

- Doubled annual sales
- Added 10 new jobs
- Tripled production area