



ALABAMA TECHNOLOGY NETWORK (ATN)

The Alabama Technology Network (ATN) is a part of the Alabama Community College System and serves as the Manufacturing Extension Partnership affiliate for Alabama. ATN has served Alabama manufacturers since 1996. ATN's team of experts helps address the needs of industry and business through innovative, sustainable, and cost-effective solutions. ATN conducts detailed needs assessments, outlines potential solutions based on the assessment results, and provides technical assistance and customized training to help companies solve their problems.

ATN links industry and business with its network of research universities, community colleges, government agencies, and other partner organizations to deliver the technical assistance, customized training, and other tools and resources needed to improve operational efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness for Alabama manufacturers. ATN offices are located strategically throughout the state at 15 community colleges and 3 research universities to provide local points of contact and access to resources. ATN's vision is to be the driving force that makes Alabama's manufacturers the most profitable, competitive, and productive in the world.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2024



\$197.4 Million

Total Increased/Retained Sales



3,375

Total Increased/Retained Jobs



\$99.1 Million

New Client Investments



\$78.1 Million

Cost Savings

CONTACT US



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LEAN JOURNEY YIELDS IMPACTS

ABOUT EOVACTIONS, LLC. Eovations, LLC. is located in Selma, Alabama, producing one-of-a-kind products. Eovations uses thermoplastic mineral composite material to manufacture outdoor living products, including wood composite siding, decking, decorative balusters, post caps, and plastic lattice. With 130 employees, Eovations is a subsidiary of Universal Forest Products and is headquartered in Bay City, Michigan.

THE CHALLENGE. Eovations reached out ATN, part of the MEP National Network™, to inquire about implementing lean methodologies to eliminate waste and streamline processes. ATN created a customized training plan that would focus on lean manufacturing with an emphasis on the 5S system - sort, set in order, shine, standardize, and sustain - which aims at creating a clean, organized, and efficient workspace.

MEP CENTER'S ROLE. Under ATN's guidance, Eovations conducted a comprehensive 5S event. The event turned the spotlight on their production floor, where teams worked to declutter, organize, and set clear standards for maintaining an orderly environment. The initiative not only improved safety and cleanliness but also led to a clearer understanding of workflow and material management among staff.

By optimizing the layout and workflow, Eovations saw a tangible increase in production rates. The reorganized space allowed for quicker access to tools and materials, reducing non-value-added time. Standardization of work practices meant that every employee knew exactly what was expected, leading to fewer errors and quicker turnaround times. The 5S event fostered a sense of ownership among employees. The visible improvements in their work environment increased morale and engagement, contributing to a more motivated workforce.

Eovations has committed to sustaining the gains through regular audits and continuous improvement initiatives. This ongoing effort ensures that the benefits of lean training are not just a one-time event but a part of the company's culture moving forward.

"Partnering with ATN has been a game-changer for us at Eovations. The Lean training and the 5S event have not only made our operations more effective but have also instilled a culture of continuous improvement. We're now looking at ways to expand these principles into other areas of our business."

-Bryan Gracie, Operations Manager



RESULTS



\$263,077 in increased investment in workforce practices



\$150,000 in cost savings



\$125,000 in retained sales



\$65,000 in increased sales

