MANUFACTURER'S EDGE

Manufacturer’s Edge is a statewide manufacturing assistance center, partially funded by the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP). Manufacturer’s Edge encourages the strength and competitiveness of Colorado manufacturers through onsite technical assistance through coaching, training, and consulting, collaboration-focused industry programs, and leveraging government, university and economic development partnerships. Through onsite support and technical assistance, Manufacturer’s Edge works to boost the competitiveness of Colorado manufacturers. The Manufacturer’s Edge’s experienced engineers and business professionals have skills in manufacturing, management, process improvements and technology acceleration and work closely with manufacturers to provide company assessments and customized solutions including hands-on facilitation and implementation. Manufacturer’s Edge is committed to maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction and providing results that improve a company’s bottom line.

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The MEP National Network™ is a unique public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive, proven solutions to U.S. manufacturers, fueling growth and advancing U.S. manufacturing.
TRANSITION STRATEGY ENABLES SMOOTH FACILITY EXPANSION

ABOUT IN-X MACHINE, INC. In 2005, Seth Cross and Shawn Gibbs were working for a Denver-based machine shop that suddenly went out of business. As Cross and Gibbs weighed their options and debated their next career steps, a nearby facility became available. Sensing a rare—and perhaps serendipitous—opportunity, the two took a leap of faith and went into business for themselves, opening the shop they’d always imagined. Eleven years later, In-X Machine is growing, thriving, and maintains a steady stream of small- to mid-range production clients for whom they manufacture a wide variety of component parts.

THE CHALLENGE. After a decade of continuous growth, In-X Machine decided to seize an opportunity to expand their production capabilities in order to meet demand and explore additional emerging business possibilities. After finding an appropriate facility which would effectively double their square footage, Cross and Gibbs realized that they would need assistance with a scale-up of this magnitude in order to avoid downtime and significant revenue losses. Seth Cross asked one of In-X’s clients for a recommendation and was urged to contact Manufacturer’s Edge (a NIST MEP affiliate).

MEP CENTER’S ROLE. Manufacturer’s Edge provided consultation on building layout strategies, including a capacity plan for future growth and expansion. Along with help from the Arvada Manufacturer’s Initiative, who helped with a portion of the costs through the Arvada Economic Development Association, In-X completed a move from one facility to another remarkably smoothly and in record time. Although an extended period of downtime is generally anticipated, In-X was able to complete the entire month-long move seamlessly and only endured one day of being fully offline. By avoiding a prolonged conversion, In-X saw zero net revenue loss and was able to keep up with demand without a hitch. Their expansion went smoothly, mitigated potentially catastrophic revenue slowdowns, and allowed Cross and Gibbs to retain their client base (“and our sanity,” jokes Cross).

"Since the move, In-X has enjoyed the increased opportunity for growth having obtained a few new machines. If the rest of 2017 goes the way the year has started out, it is going to be a very good year in the new space!"

-Seth Cross, Vice President

RESULTS

- $1,525,000 new investment
- Increased/retained sales of $1,105,000
- 18 new/retained jobs
- Saved $47,000