MISSISSIPPI MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (MMA-MEP)

MMA-MEP is a non-profit division of MMA that provides services to help Mississippi manufacturers be globally competitive. MMA-MEP is one of 51 state Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers funded by the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP). With our manufacturing experts and network of industry resources, we help manufacturers implement change that makes the significant difference between surviving and thriving. MMA-MEP is a catalyst for strengthening American manufacturing and accelerating its ongoing transformation into a more efficient and powerful engine of innovation driving economic growth and job creation. Our Community College and University based MMA-MEP Mississippi Centers provide small and medium-sized manufacturers the tools to innovate, create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money. MMA-MEP provides a wide array of services to Mississippi manufacturers in the key areas of:

- Growth services
- Lean optimization
- Polymer services
- Quality systems
- Industrial engineering solutions
- Workforce solutions
- Strategic solutions
- Pollution prevention (P2) and sustainability solutions

ECONOMIC IMPACT

MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2021

- $114.7 Million
  Total Increased/Retained Sales
- 1,279
  Total Increased/Retained Jobs
- $268.7 Million
  New Client Investments
- $11.1 Million
  Cost Savings

CONTACT US

720 North President
P.O. Box 22607, Jackson, MS 39225
Jackson, MS 39202
(601) 709-2921
www.mma-web.org/mep
cmiller@mma-web.org

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.
BLENDCO'S AUTOMATION EFFORTS INCREASE PRODUCTION CAPACITY BY 100%

ABOUT BLENDCO. Blendco is a dry food blending and contract packaging company located in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. For over 25 years, Blendco has developed dry food mixes to include biscuit, cornbread, batters and breading, seasoning blends and marinades, beverages, desserts, nutraceutical products- protein, carbohydrate, weight management, and meat replacement. Blendco is an example of private industry that has followed their vision, and created a niche market for business owners needing a complete source for information and production in making their vision a reality. Blendco’s research and development specialists offer services that include analyzing existing dry food products, breakdown components and analyze results and customize formula to exact customer specifications.

THE CHALLENGE. Blendco needed additional production capacity but there was none available on the vertical forming and seal line. Current production was averaging 300 to 500 units per day and, at that rate, Blendco was unable to meet additional customer production requirements. Their challenge was to somehow increase daily current production using existing equipment to a minimum of 1,000 units per day.

MEP CENTER’S ROLE. With support from the MMA-MEP Center at Pearl River Community College (PRCC) workforce team, part of the Mississippi Manufacturers Association and the MEP National Network™, Blendco was successful in automating their process on the forming and seal line by upgrading the controls on the vertical forming and seal machine. This was accomplished by installing a variable frequency drive, a new PLC, and reprogramming the machine to increase daily production. Production to over 1000 units per day, solving Blendco’s problem and helping the company grow. As a result, Blendco added one additional large-scale customer of powdered milk.

“...We were successful in upgrading our vertical forming and seal line with help from the MMA-MEP Center at Pearl River Community Colleges’ technical support with the PLC and controls programming. We have a good working relationship with PRCC and will continue to call on them on future such projects for Blendco.”

-Charley McCaffery, CEO

RESULTS

- Increased production from 300-500 units per day to over 1000 units per day
- 1 new customer
- Increased accuracy of unit weights