OREGON MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (OMEP)

The Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP) is a non-profit organization that aims to help Oregon manufacturers respond to the challenges of competing in an increasingly global economy. The Center helps companies grow by bringing advanced thinking and hands-on skills to guide companies towards business improvements that lead to immediate results. The goal is permanent, long-term profitability.

OMEP works with owners, executives, managers and operators to assess company needs in all areas. From assessment to implementation, OMEP ensures that a company’s efforts provide an immediate payback. Regardless of the starting point, the goal is to unleash a company’s growth potential. Every client requires a customized approach focusing on their specific obstacles to growth. Entry points range from creating improved flow on the production line, to speeding sales order processing, to training the workforce on problem solving approaches, to developing a strategy to enter new markets. Whatever the need, OMEP offers the tools, expertise, and the flexibility to engage with manufacturers at all levels.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

 MEP Center impacts are based on clients surveyed in FY2018

- **$313.6 Million** Total Increased/Retained Sales
- **1,472** Total Increased/Retained Jobs
- **$46.7 Million** New Client Investments
- **$28.6 Million** Cost Savings

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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.
ABOUT RIVERPOINT MEDICAL. Riverpoint Medical was founded in 2008 by the Ferguson Family as a specialty medical device company. Based in Portland, Oregon, with around 130 employees, Riverpoint designs, develops, markets, and manufactures next-generation medical devices for the veterinary and healthcare markets. The company specializes in sutures, implantable bioabsorbable fibers, and surgical LED lighting products.

THE CHALLENGE. Riverpoint needed to improve the layout of its facility to increase production capacity. Although sales were projected to grow by 128 percent in the next three years, the company was already struggling to meet current demand. Adding an additional shift was not an option given process constraints. Instead, Riverpoint leadership reached out to the Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), part of the MEP National Network, for assistance.

MEP CENTER’S ROLE. OMEP worked with the leadership team to understand the production process and develop value stream mapping systems around each product family, with the goal of developing highly balanced assembly cells. With guidance from OMEP, the company implemented visual management systems for tracking and reporting cell performance. The systems help Riverpoint employees better manage the cells and provide daily reports on results.

After establishing predictable product flows, OMEP worked with Riverpoint to develop planning and scheduling tools for managing production. The tools use a combination of build-to-order, build-to-stock, and configure-to-order methods to increase production capacity.

Prior to the engagement with OMEP, lead time typically exceeded 20 days. Now, lead time is down to one week, and the process improvements more than doubled capacity in the plant. They also reduced waste and generated cost savings for Riverpoint. The company is looking into more opportunities to boost capacity, including adding automation, making ergonomic improvements, and enhancing product and process performance.

"At Riverpoint, we continue to gain an understanding of our customer’s demands and facilitate excellent surgical outcomes. OMEP’s help has allowed the company to improve and design our value stream with a cradle-to-grave approach, implemented across the whole company."

- Patrick Ferguson, President