

Testimony of the D.E.B.
Richard M. Mohring, Ph.D., Chief Technology Officer, Millennium Cell Inc.
To the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

On behalf of the Millennium Cell, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing my company to submit testimony for the record. As Chief Technology Officer of Millennium Cell, I am writing to respectfully request that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program be provided the authorized \$122 million within the fiscal year 2009 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. As you know, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a program within the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, a program which is authorized to improve competitiveness of America's manufacturing community.

MEP is a network of 59 centers, with over 350 locations across the country and in Puerto Rico, providing technical assistance and business support services to America's small manufacturers. An independent survey of 4,959 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2006 states that MEP clients report over \$1.115 billion in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance as well as creating or retaining over \$6.76 billion in sales. The program also helped manufacturers create or retain 52,585 jobs and increase investment of \$1.65 billion back into the economy. The program, which has achieved significant impact on the local, state and national economies, is proposed to be eliminated in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal.

NJMEEP recently completed a project for Millennium Cell whereby they mapped out process for manufacturing the catalyst agent and then its subsequent packing into reactors for our energy storage and delivery technology. The mapping process will has enabled the team (Advent Design and Millennium Cell) to determine quality control points and critical process control points, the first step in improving the manufacturing process. This mapping process also suggested appropriate quality checkpoints and generated a conceptual system that could easily be semi-automated – the next logical development step. We expect that these improvements to our catalyst manufacturing processes will prove to be critical as we continue to develop our energy technologies for both the US Department of Defense and for commercial applications.

Millennium Cell believes that if the President's budget request is realized, American manufacturers will lose billions of dollars in economic impact at a critical time of need. It is the implementation of technology which is a catalyst for innovation, without which we cannot compete. MEP is a critical program in this nation's efforts to sustain, improve and grow the economic impact of the American industrial base in the global economy.

Very truly yours,

Richard M. Mohring, Ph.D.