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Manufacturing Extension Partnership Continues to Improve Impact

Washington, D.C. (January 24, 2006) – Today, the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) released its most recent impact to the manufacturing community which includes assisting manufacturers create or retain over \$4.532 billion in sales. The independent survey of 4,644 clients served by the program in federal fiscal year 2004 states that MEP clients report over \$721 million in cost savings directly attributed to the program's assistance. Not only did the program assist manufacturers create or retain 43,624 jobs, but manufacturers increased investment of \$941 million will assist local and the national economy as well.

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership (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. The public/private program, which served 16,448 in fiscal year 2005, has helped manufacturers create or retain more than 218,000 jobs, create or retain over \$18.086 billion in sales, generate more than \$3.364 billion in cost savings, and invest more than \$5.556 billion in modernization investment since fiscal year 1996.

The American Small Manufacturers Coalition (ASMC), the trade association of NIST MEP Centers, have advocated for Congressional support of the program through its members and manufacturing clients. These efforts have resulted in overwhelming bi-partisan support for the program. Mike Coast, Chairman of the ASMC and President of the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, the Michigan NIST MEP affiliate, states "What makes the MEP program unique is that it takes pride in improving the competitiveness of one manufacturer at a time. These impacts simply exemplify the incredible impact the MEP program can have not only on a subset of its clients, but the manufacturing community. We believe that the overwhelming Congressional support for this program is based on the program's impressive impact within the local, state and national economies."