

Successful Launch of MBE Education & Training Summit Series in Battle Creek, MI

On May 26, 2010 the first MBE Education & Training Summit was held in Battle Creek, MI at the Defense Logistics Agency: Defense Logistics Information Service's facility in Battle Creek, MI. This MBE Summit was organized under the leadership of the Army Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) Program by the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP), with the help of MANTEC, one of the MEP centers in Pennsylvania, and the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC), the MEP center in the state of Michigan.

The MBE Summit was a day-long event designed to increase the awareness and understanding of MBE technology and operations among domestic defense suppliers. The agenda for the day included:

- Realizing the Model-Based Enterprise
- Ongoing MBE Development & Implementation Efforts within the DOD
- Developments in MBE Technical Data Packages
- MBE TDPs for Parts Procurement and Logistics Support: Defense Logistics Agency
- MBE Capabilities Among Suppliers and Potential MBE Certification
- Stories from the Shop Floor
- How the MEP Network can Help Companies Develop their MBE Capabilities

According to the US Commerce Department's NIST MEP, the implementation of MBE has the potential to reduce a company's cost and time to mission. In an MBE environment, a single 3D model is re-used throughout the entire enterprise – from design to production to sustainment, resulting in improved efficiency, reliability, and communication throughout the supply chain.

David Stieren, Technology Acceleration Manager at NIST MEP, said the intent of the summit was two-fold, "First, we want to build awareness in the defense supply based about MBE, its implications, and the opportunities it presents. Second, we want to hear from suppliers about their concerns and the problems they've encountered with the 3D data so we can use their feedback to improve the path toward the implementation of MBE."

The event included the unveiling of a new website designed to serve as a central online resource for MBE resources and development updates. On this site, visitors can find information about what MBE is, they can access reports and presentations, find a capabilities rating systems to which they can self assess their company, and submit their comments or questions to government experts. The content of the website was produced by both government and industry experts and the technical infrastructure was developed by Catalyst Connections, the MEP center in the Pittsburgh, PA region.

Roughly 60 representatives from local manufacturing were in attendance in addition to various representatives of local and national government and military agencies.

Plans are in the works to replicate this event regionally throughout the country. Updates will be made available as the events are scheduled, please check back for the latest information.

www.model-based-enterprise.org