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For More Information Contact:
Gene Lussier
Board Chairman, Florida MEP
954-565-0047

Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership Launches Next Generation Manufacturing Study
Study Will Benchmark the State's Manufacturers on World-class Manufacturing Practices and Strategies

Celebration, Florida - Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Florida MEP) announced today that it has launched a research study to assess the progress of state manufacturers in adopting strategies to win in the global economy. The Next Generation Manufacturing Study is the first step in a long-term effort to help state manufacturers weather today's recession and improve manufacturing competitiveness over the next decade.

The web-based survey, which starts February 10 and ends March 15, is confidential and takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Manufacturing participants will receive a customized benchmarking report comparing their progress to the overall results as well as to other respondents of similar revenue and number of employees.

The questionnaire asks manufacturers to rank their progress toward the world-class performance benchmarks of Next Generation Manufacturing, a framework of strategies that will drive manufacturing growth and profitability in the 21st century. The elements of Next Generation Manufacturing are customer-focused innovation, systemic continuous improvement, advanced talent management, global engagement, extended enterprise management and sustainable products and processes.

"Florida has a great tradition of manufacturing excellence, and is home to some of the world's best known manufacturing companies," said Florida MEP Board Chair Gene Lussier. "But the world is changing, and to remain competitive in the 21st century, Florida manufacturers must make the transition to Next Generation Manufacturing."

The study is part of a coordinated multistate effort by the American Small Manufacturers Coalition (ASMC) that includes 15 other MEP Centers. "The adoption of Next Generation Manufacturing strategies represents an historic opportunity to strengthen and improve the nation's manufacturing base and achieve a long-term competitive advantage across all industries and sectors," said Lussier.

The survey results will provide a wealth of valuable data for manufacturers, business leaders and state and national policymakers. Manufacturers can see how they rank against world-class performance benchmarks and target improvements where needed

For more information on the Next Generation Manufacturing Study, contact Winifred Grebey at winifredg@floridamep.org or call -321-939-4000.

The Florida MEP is an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The national MEP is a network of manufacturing extension centers that provide business and technical assistance to smaller manufacturers in all 50

states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Through MEP, manufacturers have access to more than 2000 manufacturing and business “coaches” whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits, and enhanced global competitiveness.