U.S. Department of Commerce
EDA Central Ohio Region (Lead: Ohio State)
Project Summary

Total: $188,025
Project Period: 08/01/2015 to 07/31/2019
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Ohio has strong automotive, aerospace, and energy manufacturing markets. Many of the suppliers for these industries also perform work for the Department of Defense (DoD) either as a prime contractor or as a subcontractor/supplier, but their products are generally bifurcated (some targeting defense applications and others commercial applications). As the DoD reduces is spending, the trickledown effect could result in a dire situation because many of these companies rely on their entire portfolio of products to remain solvent. The potential negative side effects of the DoD budget reductions are exacerbated by the fact that a large component of Ohio's manufacturing base cohabitates in areas with the leading defense contractors. This suggests that as defense spending is reduced, the local regional markets will have more skilled labor than the region can support, causing skilled resources to leave the state in search of alternative employment. Once a labor force relocates to a new region and takes on new expertise and responsibilities, it is much more difficult to pull them back when the future need arises. A better approach is to create an environment that both helps their product portfolio become more competitive in the global marketplace and help small companies grow creating a demand for the excess human capital that historically has resulted from defense spending reductions.

Deliverables:

1. CDME will maintain a map on its website (cdme.osu.edu) illustrating the locations of all companies and technology owners supported through the OEA program funding. The map will provide links or quick references allowing users to view high level technology overview sheets of the technologies or manufacturing processes implemented.
2. A report will be provided to OEA detailing the personnel and equipment directly supported by OEA funding. The report will also indicate the return on investment for these assets in terms of total project and technology expenditures for CDME and the ROI estimates from the businesses supported with the assets.
3. Each multi-industry manufacturing project will be concluded with a close-out report. This report will cover the need, execution process and results for the project. The report will address the entire spectrum. This leaves the company to their own vices to find the necessary resources to support their commercialization program from start to finish. This is an inefficient mechanism for creating valuable start-ups for the United States.
4. Each commercialization support project will be concluded with a close-out report. This report will cover the need, execution process and results for the project. The report will be organized in a manner that allows participant to integrate the results into their facilities and/or to replicate the process on their own for future commercialization programs.
5. A project overview (one to two pages long) for each commercialization support project will be posted on the CDME website.
6. A video overview for each commercialization support project will be posted on the CDME website.
7. CDME will provide a report that explains unique defense and commercial manufacturing network interplay. The report will also provide recommendations, based on lessons learned from this program, regarding how to best leverage and optimize manufacturing and commercialization growth in the state during defense spending reductions. This report will be made available on both the CDME and Ohio Manufacturing Institute's websites.
8. CDME and OMI will also provide links and quick references on their respective websites to other related programs mentioned above and taking place within the State of Ohio.