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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Manufacturing continues to grow in Missouri; Q3 2017 impact report released

According to #1 manufacturing partner in Missouri, companies created/retained 938 new jobs and invested \$15.2M into enhancing their Missouri companies

Rolla, Missouri, December 22, 2017 - Today, Missouri Enterprise (ME), a non-profit consulting organization that is part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP) network, released its third quarter impact figures.

The figures showed that after utilizing ME's services, Missouri manufacturers reported creating and/or retaining nearly 1,000 jobs, investing more than \$15.2 million into enhancing or adding onto their facilities and realizing increased/retained sales of more than \$155 million.

"As the economy continues to improve, more and more manufacturers are taking advantage of our services to find ways to enhance productivity and increase profits," said Dusty Cruise, CEO and President of Missouri Enterprise. "They realize that now is not the time to sit back and relax because there are emerging companies around the world they are competing against."

ME's mission is to help Missouri manufacturers succeed by providing them with customized and industry specific solutions. ME's services include but are not limited to diversifying and onboarding products, sustaining a productive workforce, reducing inefficiencies and improving quality, and identifying new markets. ME serves as the number one partner in manufacturing,

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“Manufacturing is one of Missouri’s top industries, providing thousands of family-supporting jobs throughout the state,” Bill Anderson, Executive Director of the Missouri Technology Corporation said. “This is why it’s so critical for our state to support Missouri’s manufacturing employers.”

Every state has an MEP center dedicated to serving small and medium-sized manufacturers. ME serves as Missouri’s MEP center and continues to perform in the top five percent of all centers for economic impact, specifically relating to jobs, investment and an increase in sales for the clients.

One such client that utilized ME’s services was FormPak, a manufacturer that provides product lines focused on equipment for bulk bag handling, filling and discharging, as well as conveyance and batching systems. Founded in 1968 and located in St. Louis County, FormPak sought help from ME with improving their manufacturing processes and workflow systems, while promoting a culture of workplace safety. After assessing FormPak’s needs, ME helped the company overhaul manufacturing processes, followed by the development and implementation of a structured safety program with thorough documentation, and then provided a recurring set of courses on leadership training for supervisors.

“We were struggling with our operational processes,” says Larry Markos, co-owner and head of engineering at FormPak. “Missouri Enterprise did a fantastic job helping us develop and implement a system to do things better. We hit everything from presales and design processes, to parts management, estimating, supply chain and more...and now we feel like we’ve got a much better handle on efficiency, and we’re much better at tracking and understanding our true costs.”

As a result of working with ME, FormPak projects an increase in sales by hundreds of thousands of dollars in the coming years.

With the recent quarterly figures, ME’s five-year impact numbers indicate Missouri manufacturers engaging in services created or retained nearly 11,000 jobs, increased sales by \$1.62 billion, and made more than \$505 million in investments into enhancing their companies.

Founded in 1983 and serving as an innovation center, ME receives funding from the Missouri Technology Corporation of the Missouri Department of Economic Development as well as NIST MEP. For more information, visit missourienterprise.org.

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