

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Colortech, Inc.

Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Colortech, Inc. Complies With Environmental Laws

Client Profile:

Colortech is a manufacturer of color and additive concentrates for the plastic industry. The company's products are used in everyday household customer items, such as food packaging, toys, diapers, and grocery bags, and in industrial materials used in telecommunications, such as conduit, wire and cable castings, fiber-based non-woven products and twine. Colortech concentrates and compounds are also used in agriculture applications, such as film, greenhouse and nursery films, and pipe, as well as in environmental systems. Colortech employs more than 60 people at its facility in Morristown, Tennessee.

Situation:

Colortech has been in a growth mode the past few years. Additional capacity has been added to the Tennessee facility through capital equipment additions, essentially doubling the production of the site. During the growth period, the Colortech Engineering Manager requested assistance from the Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Program (TMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to be certain that all environmental laws and obligations within the state of Tennessee were properly followed.

Solution:

Two different environmental compliance surveys were conducted at Colortech to determine that all proper permits were in place and valid. As a result, the company asked TMEP for consultation and guidance on obtaining two different air permits for the facility as capacity was added. All environmental permits were brought into compliance, and Colortech successfully applied for air permits to cover new production equipment.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$10 million.
- * Invested \$6.5 million in plant equipment.
- * Realized cost savings of \$70,000.

Testimonial:

"The Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership has been assisting our operation since 1999 with a wide variety of projects including ISO auditor training, safety training, and equipment optimization. We have always been able to count on them for our environmental needs also."

Gildas Thoraval, Engineering Manager