

NIST MEP State Stakeholder Newsletter

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The Global Innovation 1000 Report mentions MEP

Booz Allen Hamilton released the second annual study of the world's 1,000 largest corporate R&D budgets on December 14, 2006. The Global Innovation 1000 study identifies 94 "high-leverage innovators," that consistently spend less than their competitors on R&D yet outperform their industries across a wide range of performance metrics. The report references the NIST MEP Program on page 11, saying that "...The public sector also has a role to play in helping smaller companies improve their innovation processes. One model in the U.S. is the Manufacturing Extension Partnership operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which enables small and medium-sized firms to tap the knowledge of business experts, including innovation specialists." Download the Booz Allen Hamilton Resilience Report at: <http://www.strategy-business.com/resilience/rr00039>

Industry Week Article Highlights Smart Machine Program Initiative

The collaborative initiative that includes commercial firms, government agencies, and machine tool and equipment vendors is focused on accelerating the evolution of machine tool capabilities with the end goal of making parts more efficiently at lower costs. Among the participants is NIST's Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory and TechSolve, a NIST MEP affiliate. TechSolve is providing test bed capabilities focused on validating the concepts for both developers and users. The full article is available at: <http://www.industryweek.com/ReadArticle.aspx?ArticleID=13265>

MEP 2007 National Conference:

MEP's National Conference will be held April 21-25 in Orlando, FL. The conference will include multiple tracks with technical experts from inside and outside the MEP network who will share insights, new trends and opportunities in the areas of innovation, growth strategies, supply chains, and sustainability. Confirmed speakers include Doug Hall from Eureka! Ranch and Governor John Engler, President of NAM. The attached brochure provides additional details.

EPA Announces State Innovation Grant Solicitation

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the EPA State Innovation Grant competition. EPA is requesting proposals for a fifth round of projects to be funded under its State Innovation Grant Program. This year's theme continues to be "Innovation in Permitting." EPA is interested in permitting innovations as they relate to one of the priority environmental issues targeted in

the Innovation Strategy (i.e., reducing greenhouse gases or smog, improving water quality, reducing the cost of water or wastewater infrastructure), or other priorities established through joint state/EPA strategic planning.

The deadline to respond with a pre-proposal and budget is January 18, 2007. The agency hopes to announce selections of projects for funding in March 2007. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants/2007letter.htm> or review the full solicitation at: <http://www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants/solicitation2007.pdf>.

Developing a High-tech Economy in Kansas City

A recent report prepared for the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program highlights the benefits and challenges of leveraging the industrial capacity of Kansas City into a high-tech and life sciences economy. Key findings of the report “Completing the Puzzle: Creating a High-Tech and Life Sciences Economy in Kansas City” include:

Kansas City firms have left a strong legacy and influenced the growth of the life sciences, information technology, and telecommunications sectors.

Kansas City is gaining funding and reputation in life sciences research.

Regional leaders are involved with many small, but fragmented efforts to improve the environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

The region possesses a strong industrial base and is well underway in strengthening the foundation for research. The most pressing challenge is to connect university to industry assets through an entrepreneurial pipeline.

The full report is available at:

http://www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20061101_kansasmayer.pdf