

# Lean/Clean Manufacturing Activities Improve Automotive Supply Chain Performance

Suppliers Partnership for the Environment (SP) members can refer their suppliers to the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) for technical assistance. The local MEP will schedule a facility-specific Lean/Clean Manufacturing workshop. During an on-site visit, MEP will work with the company to define its current state, and identify causes of waste and unproductive practices.

## Workshop Format

MEP centers can help automotive suppliers to improve productivity and lessen their impact on the environment. Activities will focus on eliminating wasted energy, raw materials and labor; simplifying process to increase customer responsiveness, and creating systems for sustained improvement.

In each workshop, MEP will:

- ▶ **Define the problem**
- ▶ **Measure process variables**
- ▶ **Analyze available information**

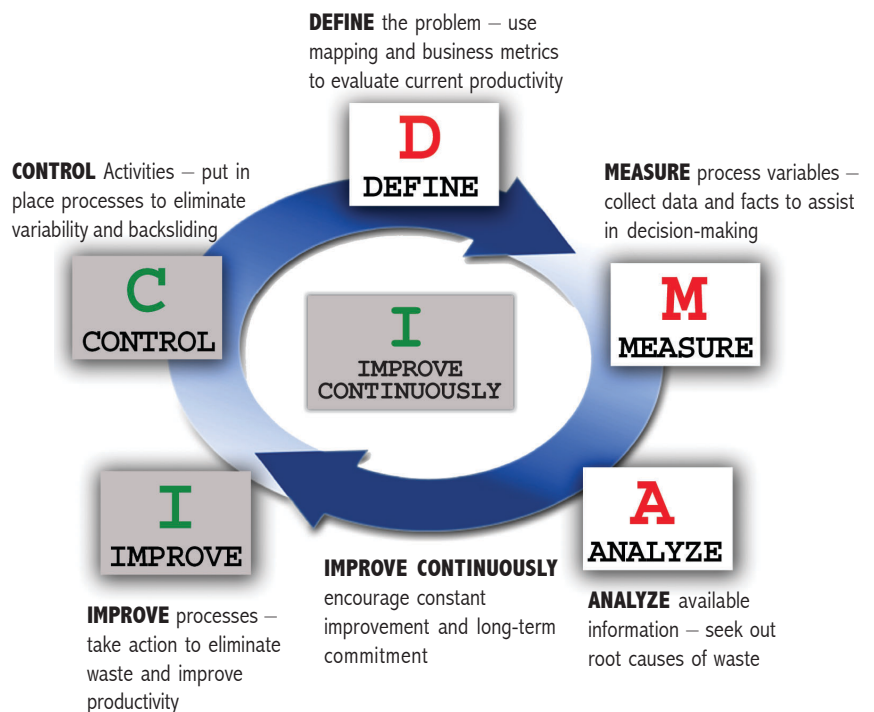
By attending the workshop, participants will be better equipped to complete the continuous improvement model and complete the following steps:

- ▶ **Improve Processes**
- ▶ **Control Activities**
- ▶ **Improve Continuously**

Each workshop will follow a methodology defined by MEP to achieve desired results. A typical workshop may cost \$7,000 plus expenses. In addition, the EPA has authorized NIST MEP and the MMTTC to provide \$2,500 funding assistance to any small to mid-size SP members as authorized (Membership Dues Category Groups IV, V and VI). Currently, funds are available to assist with 50-55 workshops on a first-come first-serve basis. Typical projects achieve a 3:1 return on investment if recommendations are implemented.

### These activities will result in:

- ▶ Top-level assessment of company financials with estimate of cost saving opportunities
- ▶ Value stream and process maps to identify sources of waste
- ▶ Facilitated opportunities workshop
- ▶ Cost benefit analysis of opportunities
- ▶ Final report with recommendations



**Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center**

**For more information, please contact Mike Coast,  
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*All information between the customer and MEP remains confidential.*