

Texas Manufacturing Assistance Centers Help Companies Increase Profitability

The Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) is an engineering resource at the University of Texas at El Paso Texas (UTEP), which was created to assist small and mid-size companies by providing expert help. TMAC helps businesses and companies to address the challenges of today's hyper-competitive business environment. It focuses on ways companies can boost efficiency and increase profitability. TMAC accomplishes this through the use of partnerships between the manufacturing, research community and UTEP.

TMAC is the Texas affiliate of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. TMAC has seven regional offices throughout the state, which provide technical, operational and business assistance to the manufacturing community.

The center has developed many successful partnerships and participated in improvement projects with hundreds of manufacturers of both durable and non-durable goods in the past 20-plus years. Some of the TMAC partners include companies in the printing, plastics, metal fabrication, electronics, transportation, food and beverage, textile and medical device manufacturing industries.



Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center at The University of Texas-Pan American

TMAC staff assists companies to assess current process capabilities and provide partner companies with a roadmap to achieve higher levels of competitiveness and profitability. An organization can follow this roadmap by its self or partner with TMAC to implement improvement projects.

Plastic Molding Technology, an El Paso-based company that produces plastics components for multiple industries, is one of TMAC's biggest success stories.

In search of opportunities to become greener, it contacted the center for advice in 2013, which led to their participation in E3 (economy, energy and environment) training.

"TMAC helped us identify areas of opportunity in which we can reduce waste and conserve energy," said Martin Rubio, PMT's quality assurance manager. PMT utilized many of the TMAC's suggestions and models that ultimately helped the company earn a National 2014 Sustainability Leadership Award.

TMAC's assistance isn't limited to large manufacturers. There are many types of industries both large and small in the Paso Del Norte region that can benefit by partnering with TMAC. Its goal is to increase the global competitiveness of the Texas economy by working with the business community to implement new technologies, techniques, and business practices. **BORDER NOW**

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