

Office Location: Anchorage



ALASKA MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (AKMA) Serving firms throughout Alaska. Contact: Dave Arnsdorf, 3201 C Street, Suite 406, Anchorage, AK 99503, (907) 565-5655, Fax: (907) 565-5646, Email: darnsdorf@alaskamfg.com, Website: <http://www.alaskamfg.com>

**THE
MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION
PARTNERSHIP
IN ALASKA**

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) is a nationwide system of services and support for smaller manufacturers to become more globally competitive. At the heart of the system is a network of affiliated, locally-based manufacturing extension centers. Each center, like AKMA, is a partnership, typically involving federal, state, and local governments; industry; educational institutions; and other sources of expertise, information and funding support.

COMPANY CLIPS

Wood Group Gas Turbines Completes ISO 9001 Training

Wood Group Gas Turbines, Inc., located in Anchorage, Alaska, rebuilds large gas turbines for use by the oil industry. The company, established in 1996, currently employs 13 people. The oil industry required Wood Group Gas Turbines to become ISO 9001 certified to remain a supplier of rebuilt gas turbines. At the time, the company was ISO 9002 certified and was actively seeking a training program for the ISO 9001 certification. Through attrition, Wood Group Gas Turbines lost five of its seven employees trained to perform ISO 9000 Internal Audits. A representative of the Alaska Manufacturers' Association (AKMA) was attending an open house at the company when someone mentioned the dilemma.

AKMA has several qualified ISO trainers on staff, and Wood Group Gas Turbines decided to work with the organization to pursue ISO 9001:2000 certification. AKMA agreed to maintain the company's audit trail and trained key staff in ISO 9001 procedures so Wood Group Gas Turbines could begin the transition process. AKMA provided internal auditor training in two versions of ISO and assisted with the creation of gap analysis checklists. With the training completed, Wood Group Gas Turbines is qualified to remain a key provider to the oil industry, retaining nearly 80 percent of its existing business.

Building a New Market for Northland Wood Products

Northland Wood Products, Inc., located in Fairbanks, Alaska, is a lumber processing company serving the local market. The company employs approximately 30 people. Northland Lumber wanted to expand its white spruce lumber market. To achieve that goal, it needed to develop and implement dimensional lumber grading. Ungraded lumber cannot be used in home construction; banks will not finance homes made of ungraded lumber. Federal contractors also will not accept ungraded lumber. Northland not only wanted its lumber graded, it wanted to have its employees trained to do the grading themselves. Additionally, Northland wanted to improve its wood drying process. Finally, the company needed assistance publicizing the availability of locally produced, stamped, white spruce lumber. Northland contacted the Alaska Manufacturers Association (AKMA) for help.

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STATE STATS

DATA* COVERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2001

Number of projects completed with firms	104
Number of firms served	45
Number of firms served for the first time	34
Federal cost share for current operating year	\$800,000
State/other cost share for current operating year	\$1,600,000

**Data as reported from center*

DATA** COVERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2001

Increased sales & retained sales	\$6,270,000
Client capital investment	\$306,000
Total cost savings	\$51,500
Jobs (created & maintained)	7

***Source: Independent client impact survey*

**For additional information,
contact Dede McMahon 301-975-5020**



AKMA arranged for the local Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) lumber grader to train Northland Lumber employees to grade dimensional lumber. An AKMA lumber grader continued to perform spot inspections on inventory to ensure compliance with set standards. In addition, AKMA provided Northland with general technical assistance to improve its lumber drying process by changing stacking procedures in the green yard. After the improvements and training were complete, the AKMA used its network to contact architects, engineers, and local governments to let them know that quality, locally produced, grade-stamped lumber was available for code projects. As a result, Northland increased production and sales by 10 percent and increased the Northland work force by 10 percent to accommodate this growth.