



**Office Locations:** Carson City, Elko, Las Vegas, Reno

MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP (MAP) Serving firms throughout Nevada. Contact: David Dwulit, University of Nevada, Reno Ross Hall/406, Reno, NV, 89557, (775) 784-1935, Email: dwulit@mapnv.com, Website: <http://www.mapnv.com>

**THE  
MANUFACTURING  
EXTENSION  
PARTNERSHIP  
IN NEVADA**

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 MAP, is a partnership, typically involving federal, state, and local governments; industry; educational institutions; and other sources of expertise, information and funding support.

**COMPANY CLIPS**

**Tsuda Surface Technologies Achieves ISO Certification**

Tsuda Surface Technologies, located in Henderson, Nevada, applies decorative and functional coatings onto plastic injection molded parts. The new company, established in July 2001, employs 21 people in a 56,000 square-foot plant. As a new company, Tsuda Surface Technologies needed to establish itself as a quality manufacturer in the U.S. marketplace. ISO certification is one crucial component to securing contracts with large manufacturing customers that require quality compliance from their suppliers. Tsuda Surface Technologies contacted the Nevada Management Assistance Partnership (MAP) for help in its pursuit of ISO certification.

MAP introduced Tsuda Surface Technologies to one of its partners, e-Prism solutions, which specializes in pursuing ISO certifications with very aggressive implementation schedules. MAP conducted company-wide meetings to promote quality awareness and solicit employee input to create a mission statement, a quality objective, and a quality policy commensurate with the ISO philosophy. Implementation involved the entire staff and required focus and follow-through to insure quality at all levels.

MAP and e-Prism provided guidance and assistance while working closely with the company's management team and employees. Under MAP and e-Prism guidance, Tsuda Surface Technologies formed a kaizen improvement team, trained an internal audit team, conducted the internal audit, and prepared the required quality manual documents, including a record matrix. Tsuda Surface Technologies received its ISO 9001:2000 certification after a qualifying audit by Quality Management Institute (QMI), North America's leading management systems registrar, on August 2, 2002. The company is now a recognized ISO 9001:2000 certified manufacturer.

*Continued*

**STATE STATS**

DATA\* COVERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2001

- Number of projects completed with firms  
**471**
- Number of firms served  
**174**
- Number of firms served for the first time  
**130**
- Federal cost share for current operating year  
**\$756,000**
- State/other cost share for current operating year  
**\$1,512,000**

*\*Data as reported from center*

DATA\*\* COVERS JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2001

- Increased sales & retained sales  
**\$2,695,003**
- Client capital investment  
**\$1,979,675**
- Total cost savings  
**\$1,884,165**
- Jobs (created &retained)  
**87**

*\*\*Data provided by Center*

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



### **Springs Window Fashions Brings Lean to New Facility**

Springs Window Fashions, a division of Springs Industries, is headquartered in Middleton, Wisconsin. It currently has five manufacturing facilities in the United States. The Northern Nevada branch, located in Sparks, Nevada, employs 120 people at its new facility.

Springs Window produces about 1,800 types of blinds—including vertical, horizontal, and fabric—and supplies other window coverings distributors and manufacturers. With its move into new space, the company wanted to reduce its five-day lead time and work-in-process on the floor. Springs Window called the Nevada Manufacturing Assistance Partnership (MAP) for assistance.

MAP conducted seven lean manufacturing training sessions for Springs Window employees and three 5S classes for its supervisory team. MAP's 5S training shows administrators how to better organize and standardize their workstations and group some workers into cells to perform similar or related job functions. To make the cultural transition as smooth as possible, MAP educated all employees in 5S concepts.

After intensive lean and 5S training and implementation of the new facility layouts, the company reduced work-in-process by as much as 90 percent. Springs Window also cut cycle time to two hours from beginning to end, a 92 percent improvement. The Springs Window workforce responded very enthusiastically to the training and has expressed appreciation for the company's investment in training and skills development.