In Bellingham, Washington, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership West (MEP), a project of the Washington Small Business Development Center, has seen an increase in requests for its services from manufacturing firms, as local businesses seek to become more efficient and competitive. Consultant Jeff Swanson works with clients to identify and implement changes that can improve their bottom line.

"We focus on helping businesses identify and implement strategies that can increase efficiency, reduce costs, and improve product quality," says Swanson. "Our goal is to help companies become more competitive and successful in today's challenging marketplace."