



THE NAVIGATOR

TRANSFORMING OREGON MANUFACTURERS

July 2025

OMEP Federal Funding Update

We are pleased to announce that thanks to support from Oregon's congressional delegation and Oregon's manufacturing community, OMEP has secured \$2.2 million in federal funding from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) through the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program!

This critical achievement is the direct result of advocacy from Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, U.S. Representative Andrea Salinas, Senator Ron Wyden, Representatives Suzanne Bonamici, Val Hoyle, Maxine Dexter, and Janelle Bynum.

Their leadership and collaboration with OMEP, together with key manufacturing leaders in Oregon, played a pivotal role in restoring this essential funding for one more year, ensuring that small and medium-sized manufacturers across the state continue to have access to the resources and support they need to thrive. The advocacy efforts need to continue because there is still significant uncertainty around the future of this program beyond this one-year award.

In 2024 alone, OMEP clients reported nearly \$600 million in economic impact and allowed them to create or retain 1,400 jobs across the state With the MEP program. These results highlight the importance of strong public-private partnerships and the Importance of continued collaborative advocacy.

"On behalf of OMEP, I want to extend my sincere thanks to Senator Jeff Merkley, his team, and the entire Oregon congressional delegation for their steadfast support in securing one year of federal funding through the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Without their advocacy, this funding would have most likely been cut, but their efforts reflect a strong, ongoing commitment to supporting small and medium-sized manufacturers across Oregon. This investment ensures we can continue delivering expert consulting services to help manufacturers improve performance, grow sales, strengthen their workforce, and stay competitive in a rapidly evolving

global market. We are deeply grateful for their leadership and dedication to Oregon's manufacturing community." - Mike Vanier, OMEP President

OMEP is also grateful to our community partners and manufacturers who came together these last few months to support OMEP and champion Oregon's manufacturing industry. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient future for our state.

In This Issue



- Save the Date for Ready or Not! in Bend on Sept 23
- Navigating Business Transitions Webinar on July 22
- Complimentary Assessments Available!

Save the Date for Ready or Not! in Bend on Sept 23



Join colleagues from the manufacturing industry on **Tuesday, September 23 in Bend, Oregon** for our next Ready or Not! Event. Attend by yourself, or invite coworkers for a team-building experience.

WHAT IS THE READY OR NOT GAME AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 4-hour live, in-person collaborate-to-compete simulation focused on strategic thinking, team-building and unleashing sustainable growth for manufacturers
- Attendees are automatically added to a table-team upon arrival and teams compete against other teams
- Each person on the team will have unique leadership position in a fictional company
- Throughout the game all teams interact with breaking news, make strategic investment decisions, manage KPIs, and respond to game events modeled on real-life business challenges

- Game design brings out collaborative learning

Sign Up Today!

Webinar: Navigating Business Transitions on July 22

WEBINAR

Navigating Business Transitions:
Legal and Financial Insights for Success

JULY 22, 11 AM - 12 PM | ZOOM

Schwabe • Aldrich

Are you thinking about selling your business, but don't know where to start?

Join our friends at [Schwabe](#) for a moderated discussion where an expert panel will guide you through the steps of the transition so you can maximize value, protect yourself in the process, and plan for life after ownership.

You can expect:

- Actionable advice
- Real-life examples of successful business transitions
- A chance to ask your burning questions during the live Q&A

When: July 22 at 11am - 12pm

Where: Zoom

This webinar is offered at no cost by Schwabe, make plans today to attend!

Register Today

Complimentary Assessments Available!



Wondering if OMEP can help your business? Is it time for an outside perspective on how best to tackle the challenges you're facing?

OMEP's team of experienced consultants are here to help. From improving your sales process, to finding qualified candidates, or making process improvements, we can help with just about any business challenge.

Schedule your no-cost assessment and let's discover your next best steps to a thriving business.

Contact OMEP Today

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