



The **Montana Manufacturing Extension Center (MMEC)** provides technical, business management, growth services, and engineering assistance to the manufacturers across Montana.

MMEC uses field engineers with expertise in product and factory design, quality and product certifications, and they have real world experience across many industries. MMEC can helping companies grow their business, expand their product lines, reach new (export) markets, reduce costs and improve profitability, gain company or product certifications, and in many other areas.

MMEC is a statewide outreach center based at Montana State University, in the College of Engineering - and is an affiliate of the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership, a nationwide resource for improving the productivity, economic competitiveness and technological capabilities of America's manufacturers.

The MMEC has 5 Field Engineers based in cities across Montana, so there is one nearby to help the manufacturing companies in your area. MMEC can help companies overcome the obstacles to becoming an exporter of Montana products.

MMEC also provides training designed especially for manufacturers and their employees, sponsoring plant tours & a biennial manufacturing conference, *Compete Smart*, that offer topics, resources, and networking opportunities just for Montana manufacturers.

Specific areas where MMEC can help with exporting products from Montana

(Mark's notes for his 10 minute talk)

1. Product Safety Certifications required by other countries: CE Mark for Europe, etc.
2. Certifications to International Quality Standards, such as ISO-9001, ISO-13485
3. Food Safety programs, also called HACCP plans. And Food Defense programs.
4. Product Cost analysis, or Shop Rate Cost Analysis (modeling a business on cost)
5. Capacity Planning, Shop Scheduling, Expansion planning, Factory Design, etc.
6. Inventory Control, Materials & Supplier sourcing, and Material Planning strategies.
7. Product Reliability analysis, and reducing premature product failures
8. Training for company employees, on many subjects (too many to list!).