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Media Contact

John Mackowiak

jmackowiak@martingroupmarketing.com

518.618.1175

New York State Grant Supports Cybersecurity Assistance for Local Manufacturers

NY Manufacturing Extension Partnership initiative will help local companies strengthen cybersecurity protections to retain, win U.S. Department of Defense contracts

ALBANY, N.Y., Nov. 20, 2018—Grant funding from Empire State Development’s Division of Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR) will allow several manufacturers across New York State to bolster their cybersecurity defenses.

Three centers within the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NY MEP) network will administer the NYSTAR-supported cybersecurity program. FuzeHub, the statewide NY MEP center, is teaming up with two regional NY MEP centers—the Advanced Institute for Manufacturing (AIM) at Mohawk Valley Community College and the Manufacturing & Technology Enterprise Center (MTEC)—to execute the program statewide.

“With cyber-attacks against the manufacturing industry on the rise, the National Institute of Standards and Technology developed a cybersecurity standard to provide guidelines for manufacturing companies to implement protective measures. The U.S. Department of Defense adopted this standard as a minimum requirement for their contractors — and in New York State alone, there are more than 1,600 manufacturers that are defense contractors,” said FuzeHub Executive Director Elena Garuc.

“Defense contracts can be lucrative for local manufacturing companies, contributing to regional economic growth and job creation,” she added. “To retain their contracts and preserve jobs, manufacturers need to meet the federal cybersecurity requirements.”

With the more than \$303,000 NYSTAR grant, AIM and MTEC will conduct cybersecurity assessments for dozens of manufacturers statewide. The assessments will identify gaps between existing protocols and the new Department of Defense cybersecurity requirements. Following its assessment, AIM and MTEC will provide action-items to implement.

Once those actions have been completed, a letter of compliance will be presented to manufacturers, allowing them to retain existing defense contracts and jobs, while enabling them to pursue new contracts that could help create additional positions.

FuzeHub will support the initiative with cybersecurity marketing and training services. The project is expected to take 12 months to complete.

NYSTAR Director Matt Watson said, “By ensuring that members of New York State’s manufacturing ecosystem are secure against the threat of cyberattacks, we are helping these companies meet Federal standards while strengthening their own online defenses.”

The NY MEP, a network of 10 regional centers and one statewide center, helps small and mid-sized manufacturers gain access to resources, programs, industry experts and assets to become more competitive and grow. In 2017, the NY MEP delivered an impact of 5,433 new and retained jobs while generating \$929 million in company cost-savings, new client investments and increased/retained sales.

Manufacturers interested in receiving cybersecurity assistance should visit fuzehub.com/cybersecuritygrant.

About the New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership

The New York Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NY MEP) is a network of organizations that provide growth and innovation services to small and mid-sized manufacturers in every corner of the state to help them create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money. NY MEP is part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's [Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership](#) and is supported through a combination of federal and state funding.

The NY MEP assists companies by providing affordable services in the areas of technology acceleration, product development and prototyping, process improvements, innovation strategies, quality control, manufacturing scale-up, supply chain assistance, and new market strategies.

For more information on NY MEP, visit fuzehub.com/ny-mep.

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