

***ManufacturingGPS* to Position Canadian Manufacturers on the Global Productivity Map.**

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OWEN SOUND, ON – Canada’s largest manufacturing consortium – Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium (EMC) is helping Canadian manufacturers, government, post-secondary institutions and other stakeholders to access vital industry Labour Market Intelligence and capability metrics, with the launch of a new initiative called **ManufacturingGPS**.

Developed through EMC’s Canadian Manufacturing Network, ManufacturingGPS is continuing EMC’s commitment to support the grass-roots growth and competitiveness of manufacturing across Canada with this industry-driven hybrid research / resource development initiative.

Beyond a traditional research / sector study, ManufacturingGPS will assess the Human Capital/Resources and Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) needs for all Canadian manufacturing sectors, focusing on the collection, analysis and ultimately better dissemination of LMI through a fully accessible next-generation technology platform.

ManufacturingGPS will create a fully searchable LMI system, with benchmarking, skills and capability resources, reports and outreach portal to better help sectors by providing a crucial and unique tool that currently does not exist in Canada today! This macro-level LMI resource with the flexibility of micro-level detail, combined with EMC’s extensive consortium and online network will better position Canadian manufacturers on the global productivity map.

This project is funded by the Government of Canada’s Labour Market Partnerships—Sector Initiatives Program and will be fully accessible to four key target audiences: 1) Canadian manufacturing firms, 2) Job Seekers and Students, 3) Post-secondary Institutions, and 4) All levels of government.

EMC has engaged one of Canada’s leading research firms to help conduct the sector study portion of ManufacturingGPS, and will be engaging a minimum of 5,000 manufacturing employers across the country. Through its national audience, EMC will begin this initiative with direct-to-industry outreach that will utilize EMC’s thriving primary consortium and online audience of over 40,000 manufacturing employers, to encourage participation and engage industry leaders to help shape ManufacturingGPS for all Canadian manufacturing sectors.

There is no cost for industry to participate in ManufacturingGPS. Participants will also benefit from no cost access to online skills development, training and other LMI resources being provided through EMC’s Canadian Manufacturing Network.

“There is simply not enough relevant intelligence available for manufacturers to generate the critical action plans for employee/labour skills and capabilities planning,” said Al Diggins, President and General Manager of EMC and Chairman and CEO of Canadian Manufacturing Network. “A cohesive resource which connects industry’s need with effective LMI solutions that help generate productivity and competitive advantage does not exist today.”

EMC conducts annual nation-wide manufacturing LMI and salary surveys among its industry management. The results observed in the past 3 years have shown manufacturers face challenges vital to competitiveness in recruiting, retaining and developing a skilled workforce. More than half of manufacturing employers are looking to hire individuals with the right skills, but are struggling to find them. Also evident is the absence of critical tools that will help them assess the future skills composition and needs of their often aging workforce.

“ManufacturingGPS will provide access to a source of ‘evergreen’ labour market intelligence with human resources tools to address the on-going needs of the manufacturing sector,” said Jean-Pierre Giroux, Director of Human Capital

Development for Canadian Manufacturing Network. "By accessing up-to-date information, manufacturing stakeholders will be able to track industry trends on specific skills shortages with resources and tools, compensation rates for key occupations, HR productivity data, supply shortages and demand gaps, recruitment and retention strategies, critical occupations, and much more!"

EMC currently helps its audience source opportunities through its member network. ManufacturingGPS will grow this to a much larger scale. Once completed, ManufacturingGPS will also provide universities, colleges, job seekers and government to better identify future trends and integrate effective solutions to better meet industry needs.

"Another key outcome of ManufacturingGPS will be the ability for a manufacturer to benchmark and see where they fit within their sector or region, but also put themselves on the map by promoting their capabilities to potential national and global customers," said Scott McNeil-Smith, Director of Strategic Planning for EMC and President of Canadian Manufacturing Network. "Companies will be able to see where their current gaps are, opportunities to grow and diversify their people, plant and process capabilities, and develop a game plan which ultimately drives improvements that help build productivity, competitiveness and target new customers and markets."



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"Positioning Canadian manufacturers on the Global Productivity Map."



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