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KMAC RANKS 2nd IN THE NATION FOR IMPROVING MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS

LEXINGTON, KY – Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center (KMAC) – the Kentucky-affiliate of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program – has been ranked 2nd among all 60 MEP Centers nationwide based on the percent of clients reporting a positive, measurable impact on their operations as a result of KMAC assistance. Based on the latest results of an independent survey, the Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) states that 92% of KMAC’s clients have reported business improvements such as increased sales, reduced costs or new investments as a result of the services KMAC delivered. KMAC’s manufacturing improvement services include lean manufacturing, quality systems, strategic planning, team building, and plant layout.

KMAC’s own 2005 fiscal year-end numbers show record economic impacts reported by clients. Based on services delivered in the fiscal year, KMAC clients expect to increase their sales by \$29 million and make \$31 million in new investments over the next twelve months. The sales impacts reported by clients in FY2005 are 64% higher than those reported in FY2004 while the new investments reported in FY2005 are more than double the FY2004 figures. Other FY2005 client impact numbers include \$46 million in retained sales and \$5 million in annual cost savings.

According to KMAC President Lynn A. Witten, the positive changes that manufacturing clients realize also have an effect on the state economy. “As a result of KMAC’s work with manufacturers in fiscal ’05, the Kentucky economy will see \$10 million in additional worker earnings, \$2 million in new state tax revenue, and \$3 million in retained state tax revenue.” says Witten. “Manufacturers make a significant contribution to the state’s economy so it benefits all Kentuckians when those firms can become more productive and better able to compete.”

KMAC (www.kmac.org), a private, not-for-profit corporation affiliated with the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development and the NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership, helps Kentucky manufacturers become more competitive.

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