



# WHO ARE RHODE ISLAND'S MANUFACTURERS?

**1,400 COMPANIES**

**\$80,000 AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE**

**1/2 OF TOTAL MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT IN PROVIDENCE COUNTY;**

**19% OF ALL MANUFACTURING JOBS BASED AT QUONSET**

**NOTABLE CLUSTERS: BOAT BUILDING & REPAIR, PRECIOUS METALS, METAL WORKING, COMPOSITES, PLASTICS, TEXTILES, FOOD PROCESSING, BIOPHARMACEUTICALS**

*Source: PolarisMEP.org/SOMRI*



## WHO IS POLARIS MEP?

POLARIS MEP IS A NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES. WE HAVE EARNED THE TRUST OF RI'S MANUFACTURERS AND POLICY MAKERS THROUGH THE DELIVERY OF

- Public Workshops, Customized Training
- Growth & Strategy Services
- Workforce Development
- Lean Manufacturing Training and Implementation
- Quality Management Systems Development, Certification and Improvement
- Intelligent Facility Layout
- Energy & Sustainability Solutions
- Cybersecurity
- Technology Acceleration, Automation Readiness, R&D

*We're here to help.*



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\$170 IN NEW/RETAINED SALES FOR EVERY \$1 IN STATE FUNDING  
 \$6 IN FEDERAL FUNDING LEVERAGED FOR EVERY \$1 IN STATE FUNDING



# ABOUT THIS REPORT

Polaris MEP is mission-driven to grow and strengthen Rhode Island's manufacturing sector. Manufacturing is a key driver of our state's economy. Support for and successes in this sector multiply across the Ocean State.



## WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

We are one of 51 Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers – MEPs – helping the nation's smallest manufacturers solve their biggest challenges.

A team of seasoned advisors provide services and resource connections that help RI's manufacturers enjoy measurable impacts. We partner locally, regionally, and nationally to help clients reach their goals.

More than 240 manufacturers in 31 cities and towns were served in this fiscal year. 131 manufacturers were independently surveyed; they reported achieving (with Polaris MEP's help):

Increased and Retained Sales of \$49.3M

Client Investments of \$13.4M

Cost Savings of \$5.1M (a 44% increase over savings realized in FY2022)

681 Added and Retained Jobs



IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT, WE HIGHLIGHT A FRACTION OF FY 2023 OUTCOMES AND INTRODUCE SOME OF THE PEOPLE BEHIND #MADEINRI SUCCESS STORIES.



## SELECT POLARIS MEP FY 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION WORKFORCE

**25** previously unemployed placed in manufacturing jobs

**46** unemployed/underemployed trained through Fast Track to CNC, JARC RI and We Make RI

**14** trainees in first cohort of new Women's Correctional Facility program (5 placed in manufacturing jobs; 7 pending)

**400+** middle and high school students introduced to manufacturing career pathways

**70** college students trained in risk mitigation, automation & robotics, and cybersecurity fundamentals through RI MADE

**25** companies hiring from workforce programs managed by Polaris MEP

### LEVERAGING NATIONAL / REGIONAL RESOURCES

**RI MADE** (*Rhode Island Manufacturing to Accelerate the Defense Ecosystem*)

- 11 companies completed (free) Phase 1 assessments of risk, supply chain, robotics & automation, and cybersecurity
- 2 companies are leveraging \$50K in Phase 2 federal funds to implement technology and accelerate growth
- Trainee cohorts expanded to include URI and RIC students, plus talent via the Rhode Island Black Business Association

### TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- "Space Act Agreement" with Polaris MEP facilitates access to NASA patents & software
- 2 RI companies matched to NASA solutions in FY 2023



## WHAT DO CLIENTS/PARTNERS SAY?

### ACCELERATING GROWTH & INNOVATION

#### JAIA ROBOTICS

This Bristol-based innovator of aquatic drones first connected with Polaris MEP via our sister-center, 401 Tech Bridge. After taking part in the Blue Tech accelerator, Jaia has since leveraged supply chain services and the RI MADE program. With RI MADE roadmap/funding, they invested in tech systems and are pursuing CMMC level 2 cybersecurity certification, which is critical to ambitious growth plans.



"Having a roadmap of what we need to do to create a more secure environment is so important. Polaris MEP and the RI MADE program are helping us work more efficiently as we scale quickly."

– Ian Estaphan Owen, Jaia Innovation

#### ELECTRO STANDARDS LABORATORIES

The Cranston-based electronic products leader joined the first cohort of RI MADE. After Polaris MEP assessments, they leveraged funding through RI MADE to address gaps identified and to purchase a high-tech UV printer. Company leadership is now working towards AS9100 quality certification and automated, digital retrieval of product literature.



"Polaris MEP has helped us to continue to grow and manufacture high quality products more efficiently through newer technology and processes. This will lead to an increase in sales, create more jobs and bolster the RI economy."

– Tina Corticelli, Electro Standards Laboratories