

COMPETE AND WIN.

April 2021 eNewsletter



As you make progress in 2021, your support system continues to grow. Harness the new tools and resources announced in this newsletter to maximize your growth so you can excel and compete.



Take the next step and apply the concepts you learned about at the 2021 IMEC Conference on Enterprise Excellence with two virtual, interactive sessions that introduce the basics of performance excellence.

April 21: Get Acquainted with the Criteria for Performance Excellence

Learn about the Baldrige Excellence Framework, and how you can use it as part of your management strategy. Understand the basics of the framework and different options for getting started.

[Register!](#)

May 6: Building Your Organization's Operating Model for Performance Excellence

This session highlights how to make the Baldrige Excellence Framework and the IMEC Award for Excellence process work for you. Hear tips to avoid common struggles when pursuing improvement and learn a proven approach to build your customized operating model for excellence.

Register!

HERE TO HELP: Insights into Manufacturers' Urgent Needs

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cook County partnered with [IMEC](#) to conduct a historic outreach and census of suburban Cook manufacturers to ascertain the impact of the pandemic on their business. Over 1,000 manufacturers were surveyed to better understand their most urgent needs. This survey and report serve as a beginning to regularly gain insights into manufacturer needs, create policy solutions, and craft programs and services to strengthen manufacturing in one of the largest manufacturing counties in the nation.

[View the results ►](#)

BUILD IT BETTER: Additive Manufacturing Summit

Additive Manufacturing (AM) includes 3D printing, and it can benefit production processes for small and mid-sized manufacturers. AM has quickly grown in popularity because of its many benefits and applications including design alternative exploration, rapid prototyping, repairs, waste reduction and more flexible innovation.

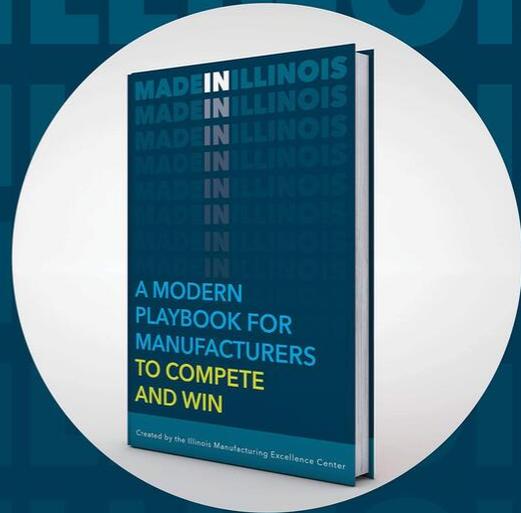
Join IMEC, Met-L-Flo, and EIGERlab for the free [BUILD IT BETTER: Additive Manufacturing Summit](#) on **April 14** for a day of learning this new technology, including applications and benefits, through expert presentations and peer discussions.

Register!

COMPETE AND WIN: IMEC Launches New Playbook for Manufacturers

MADE IN ILLINOIS

A MODERN PLAYBOOK FOR MANUFACTURERS TO COMPETE AND WIN



- Accelerate global competitiveness
- Rethink how you define “excellence”
- Reimagine the path to organizational success
- Includes 7 compelling interviews with manufacturers who have “been there, done that”
- A book for every member of your team: C-suite, operations, HR, engineering, sales, front office, board level, R&D, founders, frontline supervisors, second-in-commands and all the future leaders of your organization

RSVP TODAY



AT



[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/IMECILLINOIS](https://www.facebook.com/imecillinois)

OFFICIAL BOOK LAUNCH | APRIL 22, 2021 | 6 PM CST

GROW AND PROTECT Your Business' Medical Device Sales

The MedAccred certification and the supporting MedMMAP program – Medical Manufacturers MedAccred® Accreditation Pathway (MedMMAP) – may help accelerate your business plans in the medical device sector while improving your critical processes. OEMs, who started the program in 2012 to reduce product recalls, are increasingly requiring the MedAccred certification from their supply chains to maximize patient safety

and improve quality. Suppliers who have earned the certification note their sales growth, reduced costs related to scrap and rework, and increased prospects across the medical device sector.

Watch the recorded webinars to learn more and hear directly from executives why OEMs view this accreditation as critical to the future of their supply chains and how MedMMAP and MedAccred have transformed how they do business in the medical device industry.

[Watch Session 1 ▶](#)

[Watch Session 2 ▶](#)

MOVE AHEAD FASTER: Fully Funded Projects

Valued at \$5,000 each, these projects are designed to provide guidance and support in key areas of your organization to drive growth. Project areas include Facility and Worker Safety, Global Market Presence, Maintenance, Finance, and Cybersecurity.

Selected projects must be conducted in Illinois and completed by July 30, 2021, and projects are limited to **one project per company**.

CLAIM YOUR PROJECT BELOW



[Analyze and Control Workplace Hazards ▶](#)

[Conduct a Safety Gap Analysis ▶](#)

[Assess your Cyber Risks and Evolve ▶](#)

[Increase Cashflow and Increase and Stabilize Cash Reserves ▶](#)



[Improve Financial Strategy and Planning ▶](#)

[Asses Online Performance to Improve Customer Exposure ▶](#)

[Sharpen your Sales Skill Strategy ▶](#)

[Maintenance Project Check-up ▶](#)



EQUIP YOUR TEAM.

Introduction to Maintenance Excellence Workshop

April 15 @ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

IMEC
Plan. Implement. Excel.

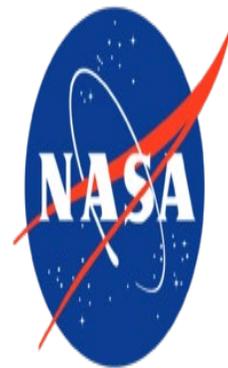
This virtual [Introduction to Maintenance Excellence Workshop](#) will equip your team with tools and knowledge that they can immediately apply and contribute to the productivity of your equipment and upkeep of your operations.

[Register!](#)

MANUFACTURERS — Start Doing Business with NASA

Announcing a 3-part event with NASA and its prime contractors to bring new business opportunities to manufacturers in Cook County, the Chicago region, and throughout Illinois.

If you are a manufacturing company looking to work with NASA and its contractors, attend this 3-day webinar to learn about the essentials of doing business with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Johnson Space Center, and its prime contractors. *Registration is required for each event.*



April 27 | Session 1: How to Do Business with NASA

Learn the requirements to become part of the NASA supply chain, through direct contracts and via NASA prime contractors.

[Register ▶](#)

May 4 | Session 2: Join the NASA Supply Chain: Requirements and Resources

Learn about the credentials required to become part of the NASA supply chain, and resources to help you navigate government contracting.

[Register ▶](#)

May 18 | Session 3: Illinois Manufacturing Matchmaking: NASA and Prime Contractors

Register for one-on-one matchmaking meetings with NASA and their prime contractors.

[Register ▶](#)

RECOVER WITH HELP: COVID-19 Resources

[Resources](#) are available to help you continue to overcome the challenges of today and thrive into 2021 and beyond.

[Financial Resources](#)

[Financial assistance from state, federal and partner resources ▶](#)

[Manufacturing Helpline](#)

[Get quick help from an industry expert within one business day ▶](#)

[Find a Supplier](#)

[Tap into our immense network of suppliers to help fill your needs ▶](#)

2021 Virtual Events

CLICK ANY WEBINAR NAME TO SIGN UP NOW!

12
APR.

[Understanding ISO/IEC 17025 and AOAC Food Program Guidelines 4-Day Training](#)

This course focuses on the application of the 17025

13
APR.

[CLOSE THE SALE: Write a Sales Plan that Delivers Revenue in Uncertain Times Webinar](#)

Learn how senior-level

13
APR.

[PLAN FOR RISKS: Preparing for the Next Disruption Webinar](#)

Let past reactions inform your future risk plan. This session will highlight tools

requirements and the AOAC INTERNATIONAL Guidelines.

**14
APR.**

**BUILD IT BETTER:
Additive Manufacturing
Summit**

Additive Manufacturing (AM) describes the technology that creates 3D objects by adding layers of material. Learn how this technology can benefit production processes for small and mid-sized manufacturers.

**19
APR.**

**OPTIMIZE YOUR
SYSTEM: ERP &
Manufacturing
Information Systems
Overview Webinar**

The ERP and Manufacturing Information Systems Overview outlines how to select a system plus steps for process

company leaders can set their sales team up for success with a well-developed sales strategy.

**15
APR.**

**EQUIP YOUR TEAM:
Introduction to
Maintenance
Excellence Workshop**

This course will walk learners through the basics of hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical and mechanical systems. It will focus on the basic components, safety considerations, tools, and general pm checks for each of these systems.

**21
APR.**

**DRIVE BIG CHANGE:
Why a Lean
Assessment is Your
Best First Step to
Efficiency Webinar**

A Lean Assessment from IMEC is key to identifying wastes that are keeping

to craft your risk plans to allow all aspects of your company to thrive through the next disruption.

**15
APR.**

**2021 Examiner
Application Deadline:
IMEC Excellence
Recognition Program**

Professional development for quality-driven professionals who collaborate to assess the organizations that apply for the annual IMEC Awards for Excellence.

**21
APR.**

**FRAME THE FUTURE:
IMEC Post-Conference
Sessions on
Performance
Excellence**

Following the IMEC Conference on Enterprise Excellence, take the next steps to outline your organizational path to

optimization & implementation.

22
APR.

[SECURE AND PROTECT: Introduction to Protecting Mission Critical Systems Training](#)

Groundbreaking training on industry best practices, equipping you with skills to secure and protect critical systems and infrastructure.

you from process efficiency - and changes you can make now.

27
APR.

[How to Do Business With NASA Webinar](#)

First of 3 sessions to help Illinois manufacturers understand the requirements to join the NASA supply chain, and hear directly from NASA and prime contractors on how to engage as a supplier.

organizational excellence.

29
APR.

[MORE WITH MORE: The Human Side of Robotic CNC Automation Webinar](#)

Learn how collaborative robots allow manufacturers to better use the skills of their workforce to while increasing safety and efficiency.

View the full list of [upcoming virtual events](#) ►

In Case You Missed It: [Download past webinars](#) ►

INSIGHTS FROM EXPERTS

RealWear HMT-1 Benefits for Manufacturers

Knowledge transfer for new employees is often the bottleneck to effective and efficient onboarding and can be a major source of downtime when the right knowledge is unavailable on-site. The RealWear HMT-1 provides solutions to these problems, and more, in an intuitive and safe way. ►

Beyond Prototyping: Scaling up to Additive Manufacturing for Production

And while many companies believe and perpetuate the myth that AM

Fully-Funded Opportunities:

Become an Industry 4.0 Showcase Manufacturer

Be on the cutting-edge of advanced manufacturing technology services to solve productivity

is only a prototyping tool, innovators in a range of markets (e.g., aerospace, healthcare, consumer goods and more) are already using AM for production-grade manufacturing when design, performance and cost factors align. [▶](#)

Disruptive Innovations in 2020 to Manufacturing Trends in 2021

Say what you want about 2020, but it forced each of us to push our personal and professional boundaries of accepting change and quickly adapting to our new reality. [▶](#)

Data Overload

We all have an incredible amount of data at our fingertips these days. The amount will only increase as we continue to invest in sensors and automation and data connections. But, it is not easy to interpret. It can also be hard to pull out the actions that are needed to make improvements. [▶](#)

Get to Know the IMEC Board of Directors: Marcia Ayala

One of IMEC's newest board members Marcia Ayala sat down with us (virtually) to tell us a little bit more about herself. Ayala is the President of Aurora Specialty Textiles Group, Inc., a textile processing operation right here in Illinois that has been around since the 1880s. [▶](#)

Changes to Employer Reporting and Registration Requirements Under the Illinois Business Corporation Act and Illinois Equal Pay Act

On March 23, 2021, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law Senate Bill 1480, the Employee Background Fairness Act. This impacts certain Illinois employers because it imposes new reporting and registration requirements concerning employee demographics and pay under the Illinois Business Corporation Act (IBCA) and the Illinois Equal Pay Act (IEPA), and creates new whistleblower anti-retaliation protections under the IEPA. [▶](#)

and innovation challenges.

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Become a Premier Domestic Manufacturer

Open new sales channels offering locally produced components to large OEMs, as substitutes for imported products.

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Become a Top Shops Benchmarking Survey Participant

Get a custom report and benchmarking analysis of your current operations to find your competitive edge and thrive.

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