

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Melody Harris

Title: Marketing Coordinator

Organization: Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center

Tele: (888) 414 - 6682

Title: **MMTC announces launch of no-fee Explorer Webinar Series. Series kick-off starts on September 9th with LEAN Sigma Service, with Cost Management and Control and AS9100 Preparation for Registration next.**

Plymouth, MI (August 20, 2009). The Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center, the Michigan affiliate of Manufacturing Extension Partnership of the National Institute of Standards and Technology announces the launch of its new *Explorer Webinar Series*. The no-fee series will launch on September 9th at 2:00 pm. The line-up for the month will include:

LEAN Sigma Service- LEAN Sigma is a coordinated approach to rapidly reducing errors and streamlining activities in all areas of business transactions. LEAN Sigma blends the best of lean thinking with the statistical logic of Six Sigma. Deploying a LEAN Sigma Service initiative can dramatically reduce constraints by utilizing proven Lean and Six Sigma approaches to optimize critical processes of service industries including the front office operations of logistics, information technology, data entry, customer service, distribution, finance, dispatching, engineering, accounting, estimating and sales. In addition, hospitals, banks, call centers, and other service-oriented organizations can identify and capitalize on significant improvement opportunities.

Cost Management and Control – With manufacturers exploring diversification into new markets with new customers, understanding your current cost structure is critical. With accurate and predictable cost data, you can better position your organization to secure profitable work and bring positive impact to the bottom line. Highlights of the webinar set for September 16th, with a 2:00 pm start will include:

- Clear, logical and accurate estimates in support of the quoting process
- Accurate cost impact data to support make / buy decisions
- Accurate cost data to reflect the impact of utilization changes
- Accurate cost data to direct and reflect the impact of process changes through LEAN initiatives
- Accurate cost impact data to support the difficult decisions of “firing” suppliers and customers
- A structured cost system that can be focused to evaluate virtually any business decision

AS9100 Preparation for Registration - Product quality is a key consideration when designing and manufacturing parts, assemblies, components, and systems for organizations involved anywhere within the supply chain for aerospace and defense manufacturers. AS 9100 is the documented Quality Management System Standard put together by the International Aerospace Quality Group for use by all

tier levels. This Standard specifies requirements distinct to those industries but also can be used by any other industry where a quality system with additional requirements beyond an ISO 9001 system is needed. As Michigan manufacturers prepare to explore and enter these key market sectors in search of new orders, practical advice on how to prepare will be provided during this session, which is set for September 21st, 2:00 pm start.

To register for one or more of MMTC Explorer series, visit www.mmtc.org to or call 734-451-4200. Webinar slots are limited for each of the 45-minute sessions and registration is required.

About MMTC

Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center (MMTC) provides Michigan's small to medium sized manufacturers with operational assessment, technical assistance, training and mentoring services, and market diversification counsel. MMTC is the Michigan affiliate of Manufacturing Extension Partnership through the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Clients of the MMTC reported during the most recent full year survey sales gains of \$114.4 million, with retention of \$315.4 million in sales, investments of \$66.6 million, cost savings of \$48.5 million and 2,049 jobs created or retained as a direct result of their work with MMTC. Headquartered in Plymouth, the MMTC has five affiliate offices around the state (Grand Rapids, Flint, Saginaw, Traverse City and Marquette) to serve Michigan manufacturers. www.mmtc.org