Vermont Additive Manufacturing Consortium (VAMC)

What is it? The Vermont Additive Manufacturing Consortium (VAMC) is a collaborative, public-private partnership between industry, higher education, and appropriate support/resource entities. Officially launched in July 2019, a key strategic goal of VAMC is to become a value-adding, supportive community of complementary entities where learning and resources - particularly in the enabling technology of Additive Manufacturing (AM) – can be shared and leveraged. The initial, primary focus of the Consortium will be on ‘metal’ Additive Manufacturing (3-D Printing) for more innovative design and production. Additional “Industry 4.0” technologies beyond Additive Manufacturing may become future areas of focus.

Where is VAMC located? The Consortium is ‘hosted’ by Founding Partner and Steering Committee Member Vermont Technical College (VTC), on its Main Campus in Randolph Center. The Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center (VMEC) is also a Founding Partner and active Member of the Consortium’s Steering Committee.

Why is VAMC being formed? Additive Manufacturing (AM) is enabling the design and creation of new systems, new business models, new products, and lighter and stronger parts at increased speed, with less waste, greater flexibility and more/enhanced design options at less cost. In short, AM is opening up ‘new frontiers’ for innovative design possibilities and production capabilities. Further, research shows that the global Additive Manufacturing market will be growing by about 31% annually through 2025.

What is VAMC planning to accomplish in its First Year?

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the Vermont advanced manufacturing sector, primarily in the precision metals sub-sector
2. Develop an appropriate, value-adding cooperative partnership model that focuses on additive manufacturing technology and application, along with a business model that will enable VAMC to become financially self-sustaining
3. Develop and implement Training and Education Curriculum that provides a standard of understanding applying Additive Manufacturing technology, including for credit and Certificate Additive Manufacturing courses that can be offered at Vermont Technical College (VTC) beginning spring 2020.
4. Establish collaboration between businesses and VTC to explore - and possibly jointly purchase and operate - an advanced metals-based deposition printer. This equipment would be located in Randolph Center at VTC and would be
available during regular class hours for training students in Additive Manufacturing operations. It would also be available to participating VAMC businesses during nights, weekends, and VTC holiday periods for business’ R&D, prototyping and small batch production run needs.

5. Connect VAMC partner businesses with potential new commercial and/or DoD business opportunities, both short-term and long-term.

How is VAMC Currently Funded?

- Initial financial support for this project is through grant funding provided by the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) through the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD).
- The longer-term financial goal is for VAMC to create a business model that enables it to be financially self-sustaining.

Planned Time Frame & Approach:

- The VAMC initiative officially kicked-off on 7/11/19. It is anticipated to take approximately 1-year to create and establish the VAMC collaborative partnership organization that can be sustained.
- The approach will include:
  - A determination of the technical capabilities of the existing ecosystem which will include equipment, engineering, manufacturing and software capabilities
  - Determination of core competencies, capabilities and capacities
  - Working with Vermont Technical College (Randolph, VT) to develop and enhance workforce capabilities
  - Identify /develop initiatives, activities, connections and partnerships

For Questions, to Learn More, or to Discuss becoming a VAMC Partner or Supporter, contact:

Mike Prior, Project Manager | 508-789-8706
mikep@lmpriorassociates.us

OR

Lisa Henderson, VMEC Director of Client Services | 802-299-1456
lhenderson@vmec.org