

For Immediate Release

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NH MEP Hosts Cybersecurity Workshop to Launch NIST SP 800-171 Program

Manchester, NH – On Friday, December 15th the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership ([NH MEP](#)) in partnership with Mainstay Technologies (www.mstech.com) launched the first Cybersecurity workshop and held it at the Best Western Inn and Conference Center in Manchester, NH.

The Cybersecurity workshop was geared to small and medium manufacturing enterprises (SME's) who contract with the federal government in the defense and homeland security sectors. Twenty-four New Hampshire manufacturers participated in the workshop with a total of thirty-four people attending. These included senior level managers, IT managers and their support staff, and other managers across their organizations.

The focus of the workshop was for attendees to gain an understanding of the cybersecurity standard as described in NIST Special Publication 800-171. During the workshop attendees reviewed the requirements of the standard and discussed a strategically phased approach to proper protection and compliance. This included a compliance gap analysis process, development of policies and procedures, implementing new information technology and security layers, continuous monitoring, and compliance and risk assessments related to the information security program.

Moving forward companies will have to identify who is in charge of the information system, document inventory of all hardware and software systems and update them when configurations are made.

As Ryan Barton, CEO of Mainstay Technologies and the Instructor for the workshop, pointed out, "There is very little wriggle room for businesses, as compliance with NIST 800-171 is clear and mandatory. For those who have never implemented an information security program before, the detail required for each of the 110 controls for NIST 800-171 can be overwhelming. So it was wonderful to have so many questions from across the spectrum; those who are nearly compliant and those who are just now understanding the impact of NIST 800-171 to their business. It was extremely gratifying to have such an engaged room for nearly 4 hours as we talked specifics and how-tos." Barton added, "We thoroughly enjoyed partnering with NH MEP for this seminar, getting to teach and dialog with all the attendees as they each wrestle with the complications and far-reaching impact of NIST 800-171."

Zenagui Brahim, President of NH MEP said, "This is a great opportunity to introduce a new service of greater need to New Hampshire manufacturers that do business with the U.S. Department of Defense. We look forward to serving these SME's to bring them in compliance with the NIST 800-171 standard."

About NH MEP

The NH MEP is an affiliate of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the U.S. Department of Commerce. The national MEP system is a network of manufacturing extension centers that provide business and technical assistance to smaller manufacturers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Through MEP, manufacturers have access to more than 2,000 manufacturing and business "coaches" whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits and enhanced global competitiveness. For more information please visit www.nhmep.org or call 603-226-3200.

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