

Arnprior EMC - part of the Performance Group of Companies

Renfrew county workshop to help find funding

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Manufacturers in the County of Renfrew will have an opportunity to learn how they can earn up to \$50,000 to help them become more innovative, productive and competitive.

A workshop will be held in the Town of Renfrew on Thursday, Feb. 26 and the City of Pembroke on Friday February 27. Registration is free for manufacturers, however there is a \$50 fee for service providers and industry consultants.

Funding is available from the SMART Program, and representatives of the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters' (CME) will be on hand at an upcoming seminar to explain how the program works.

Created by CME and backed by a \$25-million investment from the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, the SMART Program focuses on three key areas that will help Ontario manufacturers get ahead:

- LEAN manufacturing and process improvements,
- Information and communications technology, and
- Energy efficiency/ environmental reduction.

"The SMART Program is designed to put ideas into action," says CME's SMART Program Executive Director Pete Mateja. "CME will provide hundreds of Ontario SMEs ready to start productivity-improving projects with up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$50,000 per project."

"This is a made-in-Ontario initiative that will help Renfrew County manufacturers become more innovative, productive and competitive," says CME President Jayson Myers. "The entire Ottawa Valley community will reap the benefits of improved productivity - increased efficiency will transform into new and higher-paying jobs - the standard of living we value and future success depends on it."

CME will work in collaboration with a number of key parties including: the Ontario Centres of Excellence; the Information and Technology Association of Canada, NRC-IRAP, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services as well as many municipal economic development organizations across the province.

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) is Canada's leading trade and industry association and the voice of manufacturing and global business in

Canada.

The association directly represents more than 10,000 leading companies nationwide. More than 85 per cent of CME's members are small and medium-sized enterprises. As Canada's leading business network, CME, through various initiatives including the establishment of the Canadian Manufacturing Coalition, touches more than 100,000 companies from coast to coast, engaged in manufacturing, global business and service-related industries. CME's membership network accounts for an estimated 82 per cent of total manufacturing production and 90 per cent of Canada's exports.

People can register online at www.cme-smart.ca or through the flyers.