



Successful CME SMART Program renewed under Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario

About SMART

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev) are partnering to extend CME's successful SMART program, aimed at helping Ontario manufacturers improve productivity.

The \$15.75-million commitment from the Government of Canada to extend SMART will assist approximately 300 small- and medium-sized manufacturers increase their productivity and competitiveness in the global economy. This new funding will support projects that can meet a March 31, 2010 completion date, based on original application data.

Officially launched October 2, 2008, the CME SMART program provides up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$50,000 per project and focuses on key areas such as: lean design and manufacturing; quality improvement; energy efficiency; information technology; best practice and environmental impact reduction.

Funding supports all SME manufacturers that have between 10 and 500 full-time employees at an Ontario facility.

More than 1,800 applications were originally submitted to SMART with many of the proposals qualifying for funding. To date, 435 projects, (exceeding \$20 million) have been approved for funding in addition to 233 On-site assessments (exceeding \$1.5 million). A total of 6,395 jobs have been retained through the successful implementation of SMART projects and it's forecasted that 3,312 new jobs will be created as a direct result of SMART projects.

This new funding will go towards funding hundreds of the qualified projects, like Hamilton's Edson Packaging Machinery Inc. , that were left in the queue when funds were exhausted.

A market leader in packaging machinery, Edson is a custom design, manufacturer and integrator of end-of-line automation. The company also provides service and parts to ensure that its fleet of more than 1500 packaging machines continues to operate at our customers facilities all over the world.

The company submitted a proposal to SMART to improve energy management and energy efficiency in their facility at a total cost of \$75,000. Under the formula, Edson qualifies for \$37,500 in funding.

For more information on the SMART Program, visit www.cme-smart.ca or contact the SMART team at 1-877-913-4263.

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

The association represents more than 10,000 leading companies nationwide. More than 85% of CME's members are small and medium-sized enterprises. As Canada's leading business network, CME, through various initiatives including icosmo.ca and 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% of total manufacturing production and 90% of Canada's exports.

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