



Wisconsin Automation Implementation Grant

Effective immediately the WEDC working with the Wisconsin MEP Network (including WMEP Manufacturing Solutions & UW-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center) is offering the Wisconsin Automation Implementation Grant to help lower the risk of automation technology implementations by providing expertise and offsetting some of the costs. The two-step process enables manufacturers to select the most appropriate technology, plan effective implementation, and receive financial support for acquiring that technology.

The process starts with individual manufacturers completing an AutomationAdvisor™ project with WMEP Manufacturing Solutions (WMEP) or the UW-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC), resulting in an automation implementation roadmap with equipment recommended through that assessment. This roadmap lays out a sequenced technology acquisition and implementation plan tailored to the specific operation.

Completing the roadmap makes companies eligible for financial support up to \$35,000 for acquiring the equipment listed in the roadmap.

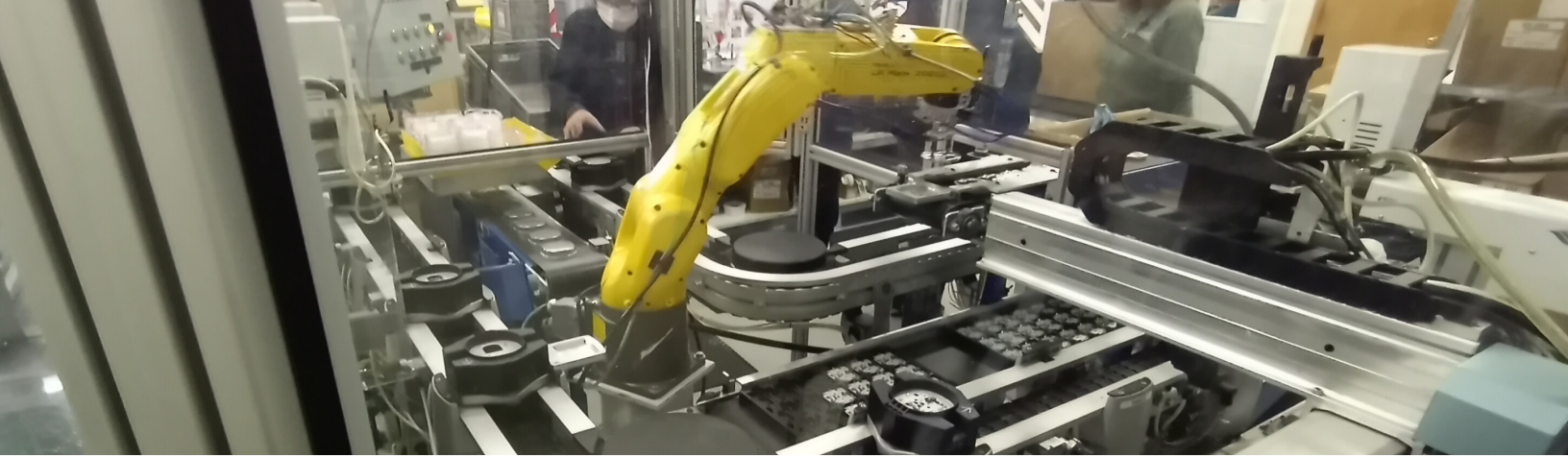


Contact Joylynn Gilles at WCMP with any questions.

Additional details, requirements and deadlines regarding this grant can be found on the last two pages of this document or at this [link](#).



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AutomationAdvisor™



Automation enables Manufacturers to increase productivity, bridge labor shortages, increase the reliability of production, enhance quality, and improve workforce engagement while accelerating profit growth.

Integrating automation into a manufacturing facility provides the flexibility to redeploy good workers where they can deliver the most value and more fully engage them. Whether implementing collaborative work, manually-loaded process stations or full-lights out systems, automation compliments your workforce.

With AutomationAdvisor™ WMEP Manufacturing Solutions assesses Manufacturers for automation fit on all ends of the spectrum:

- No automation experience and looking for guidance on where to start
- Some equipment in house and lacking the time to invest resources into next steps
- Evaluate existing automation to repurpose for products at end of life

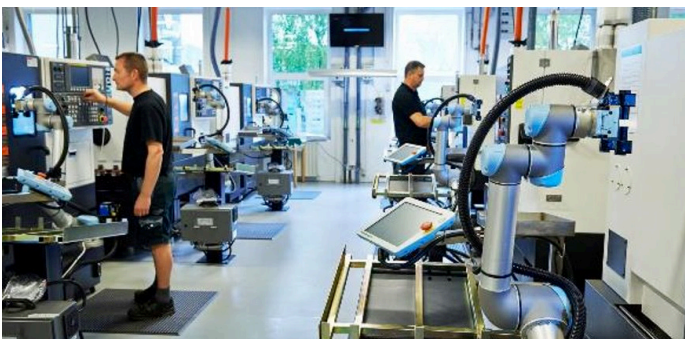
WMEP, as an unbiased party not representing any technology in the marketplace, will conduct an Automation Assessment to determine the best-fit for automation projects within your facility based exclusively on your needs.

AutomationAdvisor™ - Assessment Phase

- Onsite Automation Assessment – 1 on 1
- Automation Project Risk Ranking
- Automation ROI Rankings
- Existing Process Pain Evaluation
- Automation Action Plan Development

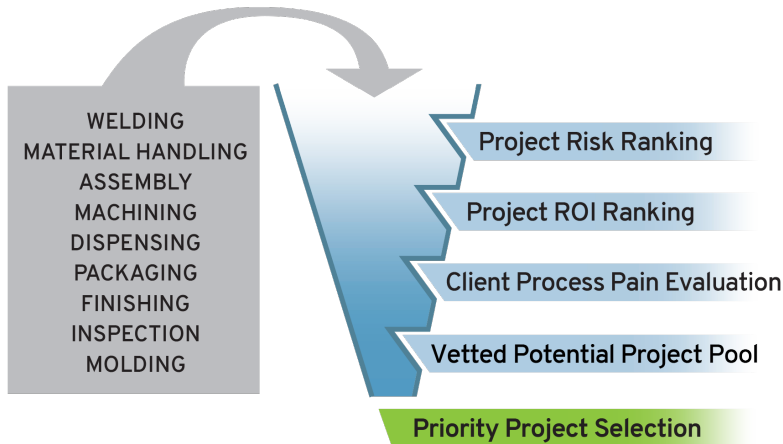
AutomationAdvisor™ Implement-Select Phase

- Recommend Third Party Integrators
- Mutually Write RFQ/Statement of Work
- Evaluate Third Party Proposals, Assist Final Select
- Provide Example Automation Project PM
- Training Plan for Equipment Support



With AutomationAdvisor™ you will:

- Understand how Automation fits within your business strategy
- Receive unbiased advice on the right technologies for your plant
– *where automation fits and where it doesn't*
- Receive an Automation Roadmap to guide future Automation Implementation



We will move you quickly and confidently to the right sized actionable investment path for automation that improves productivity, maximizes your workforce and grows your profits.

WMEP'S AUTOMATIONADVISOR™

The WMEP Automation Advisor™ service synchronizes with manufacturers by assessing, developing an action plan, and initiating automation projects. Manufacturers who have some experience with automation, whether that's a positive or negative experience, can benefit from the service.

WMEP'S AUTOMATIONTECH™

AutomationTech™ demystifies manufacturing automation options by educating, assessing and developing an action plan that is right for your company. It is attended by manufacturers across the automation spectrum, both the manufacturer just starting down the automation path and the automated manufacturer who is resource limited to determine project priority.

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WISCONSIN AUTOMATION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Implementing effective technology to improve productivity will enable manufacturers to overcome the long-term worker shortage. Companies effectively adopting new technology and meeting their customers' needs will become more competitive and position themselves for future growth.

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) and the Wisconsin MEP Network will lower the risk of automation technology implementations by providing expertise and offsetting some of the costs. The two-step process enables manufacturers to select the most appropriate technology, plan effective implementation, and receive financial support for acquiring that technology.

The process starts with individual manufacturers completing an AutomationAdvisor™ project with WMEP Manufacturing Solutions (WMEP) or the UW-Stout Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC), resulting in an automation implementation roadmap with equipment recommended through that assessment. This roadmap lays out a sequenced technology acquisition and implementation plan tailored to the specific operation.

Completing the roadmap makes the company eligible for financial support for acquiring the equipment listed in the roadmap. Equipment purchased or leased between January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025 is eligible for reimbursement of up to 20% of total equipment cost (capped at \$35,000 for purchased equipment) or up to 10% of total equipment lease expense (capped at \$15,000 for leased equipment), contingent upon availability of WEDC funds.

Companies will be reimbursed by the WEDC, through the Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity (WCMP), after implementing the designated automation technology. To receive reimbursement, companies must provide the following documentation and agree to complete the post-project follow-up outlined below.

Information Collected Prior to Project:

- Company Information (Name, Address, NAICS code, DUNS number)
- Project Information (Vendor, Total Cost, Payback Estimated in Months)

Information Required for WEDC Payment Following Project Completion:

- Documentation in the form of an invoice, receipt, or registration form that includes:
 - Vendor name and contact information
 - Equipment description and cost
 - Date of purchase/lease (invoice date or date equipment received by company)
- Completed Automation Assessment with equipment highlighted
- Fully Executed Purchase/Lease Agreement
- Certification of the Final Equipment Cost by the company
- Project Completion Certification by the WMEP/MOC

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The WCMP will request reimbursement from the WEDC monthly for companies that have provided their information and documentation to the WCMP. Upon receipt of WEDC funds, the WCMP will process company payments via check or electronic payment through Bill.com.

Company Post-Project Follow-Up:

- Complete the NIST MEP survey
 - *Aggregate NIST MEP survey impacts will be reported to the WEDC, not individual company responses.*
- Provide Payback (ROI) and Labor (FTEs redeployed) metrics
 - *A representative of the WCMP will contact company for these metrics and will report data to the WEDC.*

The post-project reporting is an integral part of the Wisconsin Automation Grant. By accepting WEDC funds for automation technology implementation, the company agrees to the post-project follow-up detailed above. Failure to participate in the follow-up may result in forfeiture of grant funds.

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