



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **AME Creates National Consortia Program to Inspire Excellence Through Experiential Learning and Collaboration**

**CHICAGO—August 24, 2012—** The Association for Manufacturing Excellence is pleased to announce the creation of its new national Consortia program. Initial target cities identified include Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Atlanta, Miami, Pittsburgh, Rochester, San Diego and Cleveland. It is anticipated that five to 10 locations will be developed by the end of 2013.

A typical consortium will only have 15 member companies. There will still be hundreds of companies within a region that choose not to join a consortium but will still rely on traditional regional events to help support AME's mission *to inspire a commitment to enterprise excellence through experiential learning by bringing people together to share, learn and grow*. Consortia will also support AME's key strategies to connect people and organizations.

AME has a strong vision for its consortia model. First, all companies and their representatives will be within a 60-mile radius of each other to facilitate deep, personal and frequent contact among members. Second, each consortium will be strongly in control of its own program and membership. Individual groups will establish membership guidelines, program content, fee structure and local governance structure. Third, AME will provide assistance in the hiring of consortium facilitators.

Optima Associates of De Pere, Wisconsin will serve as AME's primary resource for the establishment and facilitation of these consortia. Strong facilitators are critical to the success of any consortium. They will be accountable to the local consortium and supervised by Optima.

Keith Syberg, Vice president for Consortia at AME explains, "Our goal is to ultimately have upwards of 50 consortia in operation in the next 10 years, ultimately creating an environment for AME to become the national umbrella organization for any consortium which chooses to participate. Additional information and events will be planned for the AME Annual Conference in Chicago this October."

AME's current Regional structure will not change, and will actually be supported by at least one event sponsored annually by each consortium. Each consortium will be supported by AME's financial systems, event registration, and website. Individual member companies within a consortium will receive a Corporate membership to AME, which includes discounts to conferences and events.

For more information visit [www.ameconsortia.com](http://www.ameconsortia.com)

### **About the Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME)**

The Association for Manufacturing Excellence (AME) is the premier not-for-profit organization dedicated to the journey of continuous improvement and enterprise excellence. AME's membership is composed of a trusted network of volunteers who are committed to leveraging the practitioner-to-practitioner and company-to-company shared-learning experience. Through engaging workshops, seminars and plant tours, and industry-leading conferences, AME members are continually discovering and implementing new continuous improvement strategies and best practices. AME offers its members a multitude of valuable resources to help them stay abreast of current industry developments, and improve the skills, competitiveness, and overall success of their organizations. Join AME in leading the "Revitalization of Manufacturing in North America." For more information, visit [www.ame.org](http://www.ame.org) or email [info@ame.org](mailto:info@ame.org).

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