FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. Recipient of the 2017 Maine MEP Manufacturing Excellence Award Recipient**  

AUBURN, Maine: An Auburn-based, certified Women’s Business Enterprise and industry leader in textile manufacturing has been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Maine MEP Manufacturing Excellence Award. In a ceremony at the company’s Auburn facility, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) today presented its annual award to Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. Entirely USA made and manufactured in Maine, AMI specializes in high-performance textiles and fabrics for extreme temperature applications.

The Maine MEP Manufacturing Excellence Award is presented each year to a company that demonstrates the leadership, vision and manufacturing excellence that characterize Next Generation Manufacturers. This year the Maine MEP award is being presented in conjunction with National Manufacturing Day, a nationwide celebration of America’s manufacturing excellence.

“Maine MEP is pleased to announce that this year’s Manufacturing Excellence Award is presented to Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. in recognition of the company’s efforts toward achieving world-class manufacturing status,” said Maine MEP President Muriel Mosher.

“Auburn Manufacturing, an exporter to over 30 countries, is on pace to become a Next Generation Manufacturer by implementing strategies required to advance in the global marketplace,” said Maine Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner George Gervais. “Manufacturing plays a huge role in the success of Maine’s economy. To help our manufacturers become even more competitive, we need to keep pursuing policies to reduce the tax burden, eliminate burdensome regulations, and lower our energy costs.”

“We are honored to receive this award and appreciate Maine MEP’s recognition that businesses like ours are valued contributors to Maine’s quality of life and its manufacturing climate,” said Kathie Leonard, owner of Auburn Manufacturing. “Maine MEP has provided assistance with Continuous Improvement Strategies with our workforce to enhance our manufacturing efficiency and implement Next Generation workforce development and continuous improvement strategies.”

**About Maine MEP**

The Maine MEP is a program of the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and 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 professionals whose job is to help firms make changes that lead to greater productivity, increased profits and enhanced global competitiveness. For information on the Maine MEP program, please visit [www.mainemep.org](http://www.mainemep.org), or phone 1-800-MEP-4MFG.