NMDC Hires Ken Letourneau as Maine MEP Project Manager

Former Smith & Wesson manufacturing supervisor to spearhead services in Aroostook & Washington Counties

Caribou, Maine: The Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) and the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) today announced that Ken Letourneau has been selected to serve as the Maine MEP project manager for Aroostook and Washington counties. Letourneau will work with small and medium-size manufacturers to help them become more productive, efficient and globally competitive.

“NMDC is very pleased to hire Ken Letourneau as our new project manager to assist manufacturers in northern and eastern Maine. Kenny brings a background in manufacturing and experience working with Smith & Wesson in a variety of production roles. His skills should benefit other manufacturers looking for solutions to their production challenges,” said Bob Clark, NMDC’s executive director.

Letourneau’s position is the result of a collaborative agreement between NMDC and Maine MEP designed to promote economic growth in the region. As an employee of NMDC, Letourneau will be assigned to work with manufacturing clients of Maine MEP in northern and eastern Maine. Letourneau will function as part of Maine MEP’s statewide team of project managers and will be able to call upon the resources available through the national MEP network and federally-funded national research laboratories.

In his new role Letourneau will be responsible for assisting manufacturers in researching, evaluating and implementing opportunities for business and technology improvements. He will keep abreast of the latest trends in manufacturing and technology developments and work with clients on strategies that can enhance their growth and strengthen their bottom line.

Muriel Mosher, president of Maine MEP, expressed strong support for the partnership between the two economic development organizations and welcomed Letourneau to the Maine MEP team.

“Through the partnership with NMDC, we bring additional resources to manufacturers in rural and eastern Maine. NMDC’s knowledge of the business needs in the region can help us identify clients that could benefit from MEP services, while our national network of manufacturing resources can help firms in rural Maine who might not otherwise have access to the expertise and state-of-the-art technologies available through MEP centers,” said Mosher. “We’re pleased that Ken has joined the Maine MEP team and look forward to utilizing his manufacturing background and skills.”

Letourneau began working in 2009 at Smith & Wesson’s manufacturing facility in Houlton, Maine, where he has supervised production, inspection and assembly lines. As a member of the engineering team, he determined solutions for assembly problems, revised production processes to reflect lean manufacturing practices and worked on the plant quality assurance program among other assignments.

Letourneau’s skills and certifications include experience in precision metals manufacturing with mill and lathe NIMS accreditations from Northern Maine Community College, certification in architectural drafting, experience with metrology technologies and computer-aided design software.

Prior to joining Smith & Wesson, Letourneau served on active duty with the Maine Army National
Guard and was deployed to Iraq from 2006-2007.

Letourneau expressed excitement at joining NMDC as the Maine MEP project manager.

"I'm very pleased to join NMDC as the new Maine MEP project manager. The position will give me an opportunity to utilize my production experience and work with Maine companies to help them overcome manufacturing challenges and identify new opportunities for growth," Letourneau stated.

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, or phone (207) 623-0680.

About NMDC
The Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) is a membership organization comprised of participating communities and counties in the Aroostook-Washington Economic Development District. The organization provides federal and state services at the regional and local levels. NMDC also provides management and support for Aroostook County Tourism (ACT), Aroostook Municipal Association (AMA), Aroostook Partnership for Progress (APP), Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development (LEAD), and Aroostook/Washington County Local Workforce Investment Board. For more information on NMDC programs, visit www.nmdc.org or phone (207) 498-8736.