Coffee By Design Named 2016 Maine MEP Manufacturing Excellence Award Recipient

PORTLAND, Maine: A Portland-based artisan specialty coffee roaster and chain of coffeehouses has been selected as the recipient of the 2016 Maine MEP Manufacturing Excellence Award. In a ceremony at the company’s newest Portland coffeehouse at 1 Diamond Street, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Maine MEP) today presented its annual award to Coffee By Design and praised its commitment to both quality and community.

Coffee By Design opened its first coffeehouse in 1994 with the twin goals of giving back to the local community and providing customers with a superior coffee experience. Today, Coffee By Design operates five coffeehouses and one roastery, and has 52 employees and nearly 400 wholesale and mail order customers nationwide. It offers 35 coffees and blends from 17 countries.

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 Coffee By Design in recognition of the company’s efforts toward achieving world-class manufacturing status and their commitment to improving the lives of their customers and others,” said Maine MEP President Muriel Mosher at the award ceremony.

Coffee By Design has worked with Maine MEP to enhance its manufacturing efficiency and implement Next Generation workforce development and continuous improvement strategies. Through Lean principles training, kaizen sessions, workshops and strategic planning guidance, Coffee By Design identified strengths and weaknesses in their business management system, accelerated production, engaged employees, increased efficiency and transformed the workplace environment into a clam, energized, healthy space.

“Coffee By Design 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.

Coffee By Design co-owner Alan Spear accepted the 2016 award and emphasized the company’s choice to do business with others who share their values. “We believe that bigger is not necessarily better, and so we are selective in choosing our business partners,” he said. “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.”

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 1-800-MEP-4MFG.