



Executive Summary

Vessel has created an updated report on supplier scouting entitled, “Learnings & Observations for Tips and Improved Reporting” as a complimentary resource for our MEP network of partners.

In our continued mission to support small-to-medium sized manufacturers with a focus on reshoring U.S. manufacturing, Vessel independently engaged in a white paper exercise to deep-dive into the ever-evolving landscape of the supplier scouting eco-system.

Through this exercise, our team of experts were able to uncover three **Key Sections of Focus** that we hope are of value to our partners in the NIST MEP network:

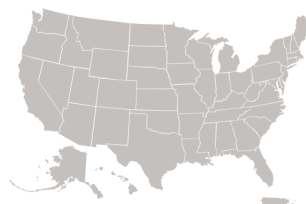
- **Intake**
- **Search**
- **Network Management**

We distilled insights directly from MEP Supplier Scouting FTE teams with the intent of empowering MEP centers nationwide through relevant and timely recommendations.

Vessel volunteers these observations freely. This publication has not been commissioned, endorsed or supported by any specific agency or NIST. We do not assume this information to be germane to MEPs. Our intent is for the findings to be useful only as a third party exercise and discovery.

We have organized each of the three **Key Sections** into these **4 Sub-Sections**:

- **Use Case**
- **Key Learnings**
- **Insights**
- **Actionable Checklist**



This document is a part of our collective journey to enhance supplier scouting practices and amplify their impact, while equipping FTEs with actionable insights, use cases, and best practices that elevate their role as the driving force behind the supply chain ecosystem.

We recognize and appreciate the pivotal role FTEs play in supplier scouting, establishing the groundwork for a dynamic FTE community that contributes to refining practices and strengthening the supply chain landscape.

