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For Immediate Release

CESMII Announces New Initiative To Accelerate Smart Manufacturing For Small-to-Medium Manufacturers

New 'SME Affinity Group' will focus institute resources to engage and empower smaller manufacturers.

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., October 15, 2019 — CESMII - the Smart Manufacturing Institute today announced plans to formally launch an Affinity Group focused on the needs of small-to-medium sized manufacturing enterprises (SMEs). This announcement is a continuation of the institute's efforts to engage and empower smaller manufacturers, further demonstrated by CESMII's previous commitment to make institute-directed project funds available in 2020 to small-to-medium enterprises, as appropriate.

CESMII CEO, John Dyck, said of the announcement, "CESMII's first order of business is to democratize Smart Manufacturing, making it available to companies of all sizes. Small-to-medium manufacturers represent the overwhelming majority of manufacturing companies in the U.S., and it's critically important we hear their voice and rise to their challenges. The new SME Affinity Group we're launching and the potential funding we're willing to allocate show how important we believe smaller manufacturers are to the revitalization of U.S. manufacturing and the strength of our nation."

A [CESMII Affinity Group](#) is a group of members from the CESMII membership base that has an interest in a particular manufacturing sector or problem and works collaboratively to share experiences, perspectives and best practices. Affinity Groups are charged with examining a manufacturing sector or problem strategically, and its members bring their unique abilities, capabilities, and interests to engage the CESMII ecosystem, as needed or desired. Further, Affinity Groups formulate the proper approach to the manufacturing sector or problem for the application of Smart Manufacturing (SM) technologies or Education & Workforce Development (EWD) deliverables. There is no guarantee of CESMII project funds being allocated to any Affinity Group, but input from these groups provides direction for the Institute's strategies and priorities.

CESMII made the announcement today at the Los Angeles Mayor's Manufacturing Summit, during which LA Mayor Eric Garcetti announced a partnership between the City of LA, CESMII and Goodwill of Southern California to deploy workforce training programs and SM technologies to increase the adoption of zero-waste manufacturing practices and improve the energy productivity of manufacturers while preparing the city's workforce for new technologies. CESMII expects this to be a model that resonates with the over 12,000 small-to-medium sized manufacturers in the LA area and that can be rolled out to other cities and regions throughout the country.

Mr. Dyck continued, "CESMII has the mandate and the ability to empower smaller manufacturers to compete as 21st-century leaders. We are willing to launch a focused Affinity Group for small-to-medium manufacturers to show that we're here for these companies and believe in them. We're even willing to apportion a percentage of our project funding to support their needs. But, we need them to engage and lend their voice to shape our plans. We won't release funds without well thought-out plans we expect will deliver value. We encourage all small-to-medium size manufacturers to come and be a part of our Smart Manufacturing ecosystem."

About CESMII

CESMII is the United States' national institute on Smart Manufacturing, driving cultural and technological transformation and secure industrial solutions as national imperatives. By enabling frictionless movement of information – raw and contextualized data – between real-time Operations and the people and systems that create value in and across Manufacturing organizations, CESMII is ensuring the power of information and innovation is at the fingertips of everyone who touches manufacturing.

The Institute is accelerating Smart Manufacturing (SM) adoption through the integration of advanced sensors, data (ingestion – contextualization – modeling – analytics), platforms and controls to radically impact manufacturing performance, through measurable improvements in areas such as: Quality, throughput, costs/profitability, safety, asset reliability and energy productivity. CESMII's program and administrative home is with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office.

For more information about CESMII, please visit our website at: <https://www.cesmii.org>.

For more information about joining the SME Affinity Group, please contact us at info@cesmii.org.