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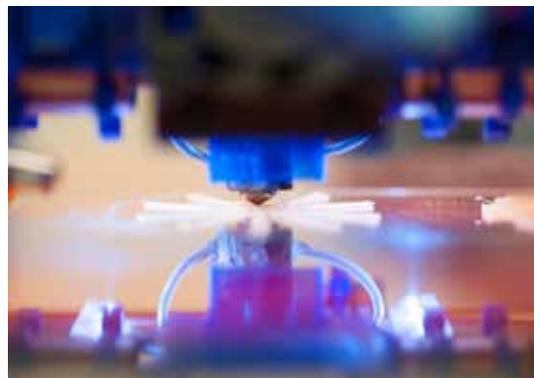
The Regional Additive Manufacturing Partnership of Maryland (RAMP MD) was formed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2014 to expand the state's capabilities in additive manufacturing. RAMP MD is a consortium of private businesses, educational institutions, and governmental agencies, working together to:

- Provide businesses access to additive manufacturing facilities, equipment, and expertise
- Build the required infrastructure to support the manufacturing base
- Educate a supporting workforce

Additive manufacturing is the process of producing a three-dimensional object from a digital file by layering materials, and it is revolutionizing the way products are designed and manufactured.

The process starts with a 3D computer-aided design file. This file is sent to a 3D printer, which then creates layers upon layers of precisely measured and formed materials, such as plastics, rubber, metals, or ceramics. This is different from traditional manufacturing technologies, which is considered a "subtractive" process where you start with a block of material and remove what you don't need. As a result, additive manufacturing can be more efficient, flexible, and less wasteful.

Additive manufacturing represents a dramatic shift in how products are designed, manufactured, and ultimately distributed. Because the industry is in its infancy, the equipment and expertise are still beyond the reach of most businesses. RAMP MD solves this problem for Maryland companies. Through RAMP MD, companies partner with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical



Biological Center, which has some of the most advanced additive manufacturing capabilities in the nation and has been using additive manufacturing technology for over 30 years, and Army Research Lab, a world leader in materials science. The collaboration permits manufacturers to move from inspiration to production faster than ever.

RAMP MD currently holds partnership agreements with over 20 industry partners and is in the process of negotiating more. RAMP MD is also working with Maryland educational institutions to develop pathways into high-tech, high-pay additive manufacturing careers.

Regional leaders are just beginning to recognize the tremendous impact additive manufacturing will have on our communities. Not only will the capability create new high-tech jobs for people of all skill levels, it has the potential to change the way we live, work, and play.

For more information about partnering with RAMP MD, contact RAMP MD Executive Director Rick Decker at 410-591-7075 or rick@rampmd.org.

