

June 2016

# MFOresight Insights

A Newsletter for the Manufacturing Community

## Contents

Save the Date!.....	1
“Making to Manufacturing” Competition.....	1
Recent & Upcoming Workshops.....	2
New Study Being Launched....	2
Outreach & Social Media.....	3
MFOresight Staff News.....	3

*We hope you enjoy reading about what MFOresight has been up to recently, and we encourage you to contact us at [info@mforesight.org](mailto:info@mforesight.org) with any questions or comments you have about this update.*

## Save the Date! Inaugural Annual Summit

MFOresight’s first Annual Summit will be held on ~~Friday, September 30~~ Thursday, September 29, 2016 at Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Stay tuned for more information about the event, and be sure to mark the date on your calendar now!

## “Making to Manufacturing” Competition

MFOresight sponsored a prize competition from April 26 - June 1, 2016 to gather innovative solutions for achieving cost-effective low-volume manufacturing. Titled “Making to Manufacturing”, the goal of the competition was to identify technologies and techniques in hardware, software, collaborative systems and educational tools that can increase the variety and value of items designed and manufactured cost-effectively in the United States with 3-5 years of additional development.

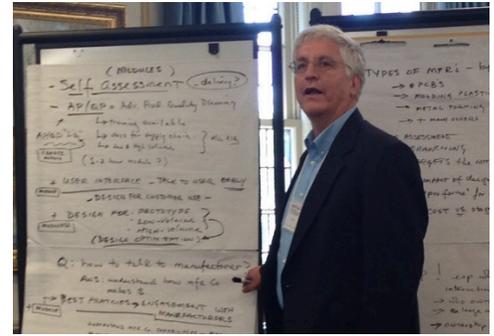
The competition was structured to identify innovations that are past the “paper-phase” and in the development process. Participants submitted a written description and a video-based demonstration of the innovation in use.

We received 17 viable entries that described a wide range of manufacturing technologies and approaches. After judging all entries according to the criteria listed in the competition rules, it was determined that none of the submissions successfully met all the criteria required to receive an award. However, the top three scoring entries were invited to a “Making to Manufacturing” workshop held at the White House on June 20, 2016.

## Recent & Upcoming Workshops

### “Manufacturing 101”

On Friday, June 17, 2016, MForesight hosted a workshop to develop a training curriculum for mid-stage cleantech entrepreneurs. The goal was to identify the most important topics in manufacturing that will help small companies transition their innovations from initial prototypes into commercially successful products. The “Manufacturing 101” workshop successfully identified topics and training delivery methods that will give entrepreneurs the knowledge they need to ask the right questions, and to intelligently discuss manufacturing issues with design engineers, consultants, and manufacturing companies.



Peter Russo from MassMEP sharing ideas at the “Manufacturing 101” workshop

Many thanks to our DOE sponsors and the subject matter experts for a lively and constructive workshop. Outcomes from the workshop will be presented in a draft report to the Department of Energy by July 5, and we plan to release the final report later in July.

### “Democratizing Manufacturing”

MForesight will be hosting a workshop in Washington, DC on August 8-9, 2016 to gain insights into how entrepreneurs and small-to-mid sized businesses (SMBs) can scale up their manufacturing capabilities to low-volume production. A host of disruptive new equipment and software technologies such as 3D printers and collaborative software has enabled a wide range of new “makers” in the U.S. These new companies can find new markets by scaling up to lower-volume production (in the thousands). But these companies also face barriers such as training, R&D, and access to the supply chain. This workshop will assemble a group of experts in manufacturing to identify solutions to these barriers so that entrepreneurs and SMBs can cost-effectively compete to domestically achieve low-volume production and create high-value products. NSF and NIST are sponsoring this study.

## New Study Being Launched

MForesight is preparing to launch a new study on “Low-volume manufacturing of population-specific medical devices.” We are working with researchers at the University of Minnesota and a number of medical device manufacturers to produce a report which:

- Identifies barriers and opportunities for the production of medical devices for patient-specific populations;
- Selects a set of candidate patient populations in need of medical devices;
- Identifies platform technologies that will support cost-competitive delivery of medical devices for each patient population;
- Discusses barriers and solutions for low-volume manufacturing and delivering these medical devices within 3-5 years.

This is an exciting area of innovation that can have an immense impact on individuals with low-prevalence conditions in the U.S. The project is taking place from June - September 2016.

## Outreach and Social Media

MForesight is currently working to improve our online presence through improving the current website, creating a new website design over the summer, and increasing our activity on social media. With the addition of two new staff members (more info below!) improvement of online communication has been made a priority.

Being active on social media can help MForesight raise awareness of manufacturing as a potential career path and help keep the manufacturing community informed of current research and initiatives. We invite you to connect with MForesight on these platforms:

- Twitter: @M\_Foresight [https://twitter.com/M\\_Foresight](https://twitter.com/M_Foresight)
- Facebook: @MForesightAlliance <https://www.facebook.com/MForesightAlliance>
- Medium (blog): @MForesight <https://medium.com/@MForesight>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/mforesight>
- Paper.li: “The MForesight Outlook” is sent out weekly on Mondays [http://paper.li/M\\_Foresight/1456334850#](http://paper.li/M_Foresight/1456334850#)

In addition to improving online communications, MForesight is in the midst of setting up a list of Affiliates to expand our network. The first set of invitations went out earlier this week. MForesight Affiliates will:

- Be able to suggest emerging technology topics and opportunities in advanced manufacturing for further study or workshops.
- Have the opportunity to suggest subject matter experts for MForesight workshops and studies.
- Be able to volunteer to host MForesight workshops when appropriate (with MForesight covering the cost of hosting).
- Receive an invitation to participate in the Annual Summit in Washington, DC and submit topics for presentation there. Affiliates will be invited to participate in the Inaugural Summit on September 30, 2016.

## MForesight Staff News

### New staff

Two new staff members joined MForesight in May: Sara Samuel and Diane Pham. Read below to learn more about Sara and Diane and how they are helping MForesight.

- Sara Samuel is a Research Analyst for MForesight. Prior to joining MForesight at the end of May 2016, she was an Engineering Librarian at the University of Michigan for 7 years. With her experience as a research librarian and working with websites and online communications, Sara is helping MForesight find relevant information for current projects, craft content for a variety of communication channels, and create polished reports. Sara has a Master of Science in Information (MSI) from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Computer Science from Hope College.
- Diane Pham joined MForesight as the Web and Media Technologist Intern at the end of May 2016. She is currently pursuing her Master of Science in Information (MSI) at the University of Michigan’s School of Information and is specializing in Human-Computer Interaction. In addition to updating and improving the current website, Diane is helping to redesign the MForesight web presence over the summer and is also helping to design graphics for the website and reports. Diane has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Iowa where she majored in International Studies and Informatics and minored in Psychology.

## Interviews in progress

MForesight is looking to hire a Managing Director and a Project Manager. In response to our recent job postings, we received many highly qualified applicants, and interviews are in progress for both positions.

- The Managing Director will work closely with the Director to maintain effective communications and outreach with the advanced manufacturing community, academia and government agencies. The Managing Director will also prepare insightful and relevant written materials on the state of the advanced manufacturing community.
  - The Project Manager will handle a wide range of administrative, operational, logistical activities, with a special emphasis on executive support responsibilities to the Director and the MForesight team.
- 

## MForesight: Alliance for Manufacturing Foresight

### Email

[info@mforesight.org](mailto:info@mforesight.org)

### Website

<http://mforesight.org>

### Social Media

Twitter: @M\_Foresight

Facebook: @MForesightAlliance

Medium (blog): @MForesight

