

## Auburn Manufacturing Joins Consortium of Industry Leaders at University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center

Mechanic Falls, ME — (May 2017) - [Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. \(AMI\)](http://www.auburnmfg.com) has joined a consortium of industry leaders chosen to advise operations and guide technology developments at the newly established Smart Materials Lab in Orono, ME. Smart Materials are materials that sense and react to environmental conditions or stimuli. The Lab and Smart Materials Industry Consortium were established through a grant from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) to the University of Maine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center.

The new Lab is intended to be a regional Center of Excellence and a mechanism by which companies can be exposed to broad academic and industrial sciences in the development of their new products and technology. "The Lab provides a shared Smart Materials R&D resource that gives companies like AMI an edge in innovation," said Kathie Leonard, President/CEO of Auburn Manufacturing. "It will allow us to capitalize on the research results and create new and potentially profitable products." National organizations participating in the Lab include Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA), Naval Ship Research and Development Center (NSRDC) and the Maine Space Grant Consortium.

AMI has joined AFFOA, along with approximately 80 other companies working together to enable a manufacturing-based revolution by transforming traditional fibers, yarns, and fabrics into highly sophisticated, integrated and networked devices and systems.' "[AMI](http://www.auburnmfg.com) will be tasked with producing production scale samples of woven heat-resistant fabric incorporating sensing elements to produce smart fabrics," says Garrett VanAtta, AMI's Vice President of Innovation Engineering. "Prototypes will initially address military applications in technical fabrics for soldiers either in garments or architectural applications such as tentage."

"When the development of these innovative textiles is complete," said AMI's VanAtta. "It will demonstrate the viability of the technology and allow U.S. companies to lead the world in smart textiles."

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*Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. Since its founding in 1979, Auburn Manufacturing, Inc., has become a leading developer, manufacturer, and marketer of textile products for hundreds of extreme temperature industrial applications throughout the world, including welding protection, industrial insulation, safety apparel, gaskets and seals, and other MROP (Maintenance, Repair, Operations and Production) and OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) applications.*