



October 22, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. James Olthoff
Performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the
Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and
Technology and Director
National Institute of Standards and Technology

FROM: Richard Bachman
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Evaluation of NIST's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Program (#2022-413)

We are initiating an evaluation of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program. Our objective is to determine the adequacy of NIST's oversight of the MEP Program to ensure requirements are met.

We plan to begin this work immediately. We will contact your audit liaisons to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss in further detail the specific nature of our evaluation—including our objective and scope, time frames, and any potential needs for us to be provided data. If you have any questions about this evaluation, please contact me at (202) 482-2877 or Patricia McBarnette, Audit Director, at (202) 482-3391.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this effort.

cc: Dr. Robert W. Ivester, Acting MEP Director, NIST
Amy Egan, Audit Liaison, NIST
Catherine Fletcher, Audit Liaison, NIST
MaryAnn Mausser, Audit Liaison, Office of the Secretary