



9 November 2020

Metals Hub Exploratory Study

The Southland Development Authority (SDA) has commenced work on the formation of a Metals Hub to serve metal, machinery and equipment manufacturers (MM&E) in the South Suburbs of Cook County (the “Southland”).

The MM&E sector has a significant presence in the Southland, generating \$3B in revenue from just under 600 firms with 20,000 employees – and is critical to growing the MM&E sector in the broader Chicagoland region. However, across the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted manufacturing supply chains – some in the short-term, some much longer. This has presented challenges for individual firms as well as an overall opportunity to build new integrated local and regional supply chains to augment international suppliers.

The SDA and its extensive partner network believe the Southland has an opportunity to build from its existing MM&E assets and help individual firms address global changes in manufacturing – moving towards the increased speed, quality, and rapid customization of advanced manufacturing.

The proposed Metals Hub in the Southland is an industry organization that will bring willing MM&E firms together to form new teams to supply area, regional, and national original equipment manufacturers as well as other manufacturers. The Hub will focus on assembling supply chains for:

- Commoditized metal manufacturing (improved speed, cost, and agility for mass-produced parts)
- Value-added production (end-to-end ability to manufacture new materials and designs)
- New markets (turnkey supply chains for existing production needs)

The SDA’s advisor, Blane, Canada Ltd. of Wheaton, IL, is reaching out to MM&E executives to test their interest in participating in the proposed Hub as well as explore their views on specific functions the Hub would provide to manufacturers. MM&E company executives wishing to participate can reach out to Eric P. Canada.

For additional information, please reach out to:

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The Southland Development Authority (SDA) is a non-profit business organization designed to grow the economy of the South Suburbs. Launched in 2019 by business, civic and political leaders across the Southland, SDA brings the resources and capacity necessary to achieve transformative and inclusive economic growth for our region.