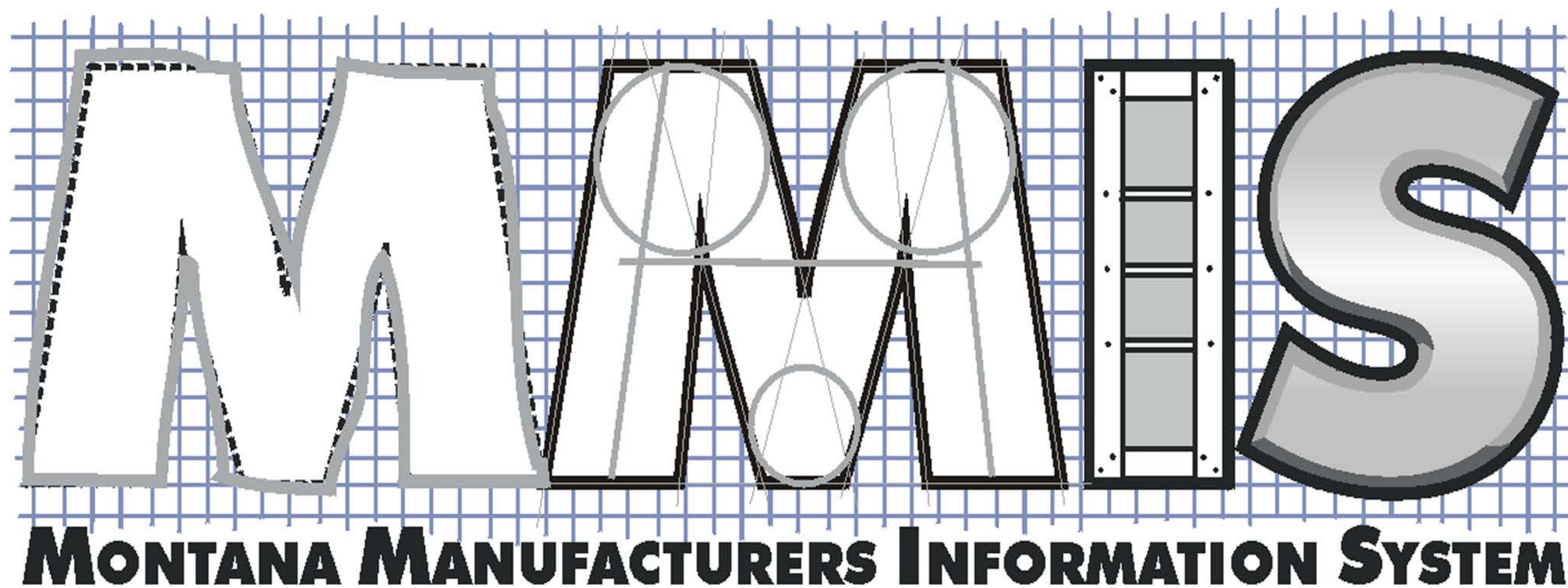


# Wood Products Information Systems for Economic Development



Bob Campbell

Any effort to promote the wood products industry as a sector for economic development or efforts to sustain an existing wood products industry begin with an inventory of the current participating companies. Creating an online information system from this inventory supports and enhances the current firms and subsequent economic development activities.

[www.mmis.umt.edu](http://www.mmis.umt.edu)

Created in 1999 the MMIS was built with data on the Montana wood products industry. It was expanded to include all manufacturing and has been updated several times. From this template we also host a wood products directory for Idaho. Currently the system gets about 25 visitors per day, with 9,000 visits per year.

## Idaho Wood Products Directory

[www.mmis.umt.edu/ID/](http://www.mmis.umt.edu/ID/)

Technical information: Online Information System based on relational database with web-based access for public and participating firms with custom-programmed maintenance and reporting components.

## Economic Development Objectives / Features

### Connect products with Customers

- Unlimited detailed product listings
- Multiple ways to search listings
- Prominent link to participants website
- Multiple ways to contact companies
- Lists Certifications, licenses, etc.

### Connect Producers with Potential Partners

- Lists detailed capabilities
- Lists detailed processes
- Lists equipment used
- Lists Certifications, licenses, permits, etc.

### Identify where capacity is available or needed

- Collects detailed capacity information

### Identify cluster opportunities

- Facilities classified by type
- Facilities listed geographically

### Identify value-added opportunities

- Unlimited detailed product listings
- Collects detailed capability information

### Additional Features:

- Password protected for participant updating
- Participants can choose what info is displayed and what is not.

**Future enhancements:** Geographical Information System features & searching.

## Research Objectives

- Provides detailed information for analysis of the condition/status of the wood products industry
- Allows fast response to data requests from industry, agencies, decision makers and media
- Extensive database allows for multi-year comparisons-trends in production, consolidation, growth/decline, and capacity
- Maintain contact with wood products industry

The image shows two screenshots of the MMIS website. The top screenshot is the homepage, featuring a search bar, navigation links, and a list of search options: 'Alphabetic listing of Manufacturers', 'Browse by products produced', 'Browse by equipment or process', 'Browse by certification, license, permit, etc.', and 'Browse by type of manufacturing'. The bottom screenshot shows a 'Manufacturer's Profile' for 'XYZ Manufacturing, Inc.', including contact information, location, and a table of products/services. The table has columns for 'Product or Service', 'Product Type/Status', 'Details', and 'Check to keep confidential'. The table lists various products like 'Increasing Montana ML', 'Internet directories for...', 'Online manufacturing IP', 'Computer programming', 'Linkages between MT', and 'Reports on Manufacturer'.