

The U.S. Defense Industrial Base and the Role of Small to Medium Manufacturers

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ABSTRACT

U.S. manufacturing has been on a steady decline since the 1990s due to extensive outsourcing to low-cost countries for initiatives to reduce costs. In fact, since 1990 the U.S. Defense Industrial Base (DIB) has lost more than 40% of its Small to Medium Manufacturers (SMM). While outsourcing may have provided some boost to the U.S. economy with lower priced products for the consumers, it has threatened the United States' ability to sustain its position as a global leader. The U.S. DIB is heavily reliant on manufacturing to provide products and services that allow for the fielding, sustainment, and deployment of operational military aircraft, ground vehicles, satellites, ships, and other equipment offensive / defensive capabilities. The focus of this research presentation is to present an SMM strategic investment framework that will help SMMs make strategic investment in manufacturing capabilities that support U.S. DIB objectives and expand U.S. influence in the global manufacturing economy.

Key Words: Defense Industrial Base, Manufacturing, Small to Medium Manufacturers

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