



Nebraska MEP, with support from the Heartland Robotics Grant and industry partners, is launching a pilot program that will fund automation and digital transformation projects for four Nebraska manufacturers. Participants will gain hands-on experience with proven automation tools and methodologies that improve productivity, increase competitiveness, and reduce investment risk.

This pilot will help manufacturers move from automation curiosity to automation action by providing the data, validation, and expertise needed to make smarter technology investments. It demonstrates how manufacturers can de-risk automation adoption, build internal capabilities, and accelerate digital transformation through measurable, real-world results.



Productivity Assessment & OEE



Understand Your Automation Opportunity Before You Invest



Work with Rensenhous automation experts to evaluate one machine or production line and gain real-time visibility into operational performance.

WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE

- ✓ OEE (Overall Equipment Effectiveness) Measurement
- ✓ Production Performance Dashboard
- ✓ Downtime & Bottleneck Analysis
- ✓ Baseline Productivity Metrics
- ✓ Automation Opportunity Assessment
- ✓ Recommendations for Next Steps

BENEFITS

- ✓ Quantify productivity losses
- ✓ Identify high-value automation opportunities
- ✓ Build a business case for future investments
- ✓ Improve throughput and equipment utilization

Digital Twin Work Cell Pilot



Test Improvements Virtually Before Making Capital Investments



Collaborate with experts from SOLIDWORKS and GoEngineer to develop a digital twin of a selected manufacturing work cell.

WHAT YOU'LL RECEIVE

- ✓ Digital Twin Model of a Production Area
- ✓ Throughput & Bottleneck Analysis
- ✓ "What-If" Scenario Simulations
- ✓ Risk-Free Automation Evaluation
- ✓ ROI Analysis & Recommendations
- ✓ Digital Manufacturing Coaching

BENEFITS

- ✓ Validate automation concepts before implementation
- ✓ Reduce project risk and uncertainty
- ✓ Optimize layouts, workflows, and resources
- ✓ Build internal digital manufacturing capabilities

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Nebraska manufacturers looking to:

- ✓ Increase productivity
- ✓ Reduce bottlenecks
- ✓ Evaluate automation opportunities
- ✓ Improve operational performance
- ✓ Make data-driven investment decisions



PROGRAM TIMELINE

- APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW
- OCTOBER 2026
Manufacturer Selection
- OCTOBER 2026 – JANUARY 2027
Project Execution
- JANUARY 2027
Final Deliverables & Recommendations

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- ✓ Access to Automation & Robotics Experts
- ✓ Practical Recommendations You Can Implement
- ✓ Limited Availability Through Pilot Program Pricing
- ✓ No Obligation for Future Software Purchases or Projects



APPLY TODAY

[GO.UNL.EDU/AUTOPILOT](https://go.unl.edu/autopiLOT)

Take the first step toward improving productivity, evaluating automation opportunities, and accelerating your digital transformation journey.



SPONSORED BY:
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MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH:
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SCAN TO APPLY!