

In this edition: A look at how our manufacturing readiness program helps innovators improve designs and processes to enable scale up for production.



How we're helping cleantech startups scale up to mass production faster

Most cleantech startups have little or no experience with production manufacturing. This can have far-reaching effects that delay—and even keep—new hardware from getting to market. To shorten the time it takes for a working prototype to go into full production, we co-developed a manufacturing readiness program with NextCorps, a tech-innovation nonprofit based in Rochester, New York, to connect the dots between startups and contract manufacturers.

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Design for manufacturing assessment and CFD flow-simulation analysis clears path to production

Buffalo's You First Services (YFS) commercializes medical-device technologies for the healthcare industry. We first worked with YFS in 2019 to assess manufacturability of SteriSpace™, a novel air-sterilizing unit. In a recent second project, we completed a CFD flow-simulation to improve the product's functional performance. Our design guidance helped clear the path for cost-effectively getting SteriSpace™ to mass production. Plans are underway for a third project later this year.

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Energy-efficiency solution is easier to manufacture after design consultation

WexEnergy's flagship product, WindowSkin®, is a film that can be attached to windows in residential or commercial buildings to save energy. As part of the inaugural cohort under NextCorp's Hardware Scaleup program (funded by NYSERDA) we worked with the Rochester-based startup to adjust the product's design to streamline its manufacturability. To do this, we created a series of design concepts and then evaluated them in different performance and production scenarios using computer simulation. WexEnergy selected a final design from the best-performing options.

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Improved design brings smart compost monitor closer to market

The Smart Sensor Compost System (SSCS) was developed by WeRadiate, a cleantech startup in Buffalo, New York, to optimize composting. The product allows users to closely monitor compost piles in order to increase the volume and speed at which organic waste becomes high-quality compost. We worked with WeRadiate to bring its SSCS one step closer to market by enhancing its design to achieve a more robust, visually appealing product.

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