

CONNEX™ MAINE FAQ



AN EXCITING NEW RESOURCE FOR MANUFACTURERS, FREE FROM MAINE MEP!

What is CONNEX™ Maine and why should I sign up?

CONNEX™ Maine is a powerful tool, an online platform full of state-based connections and opportunities for manufacturers. As a new, free service through Maine MEP, CONNEX™ Maine allows manufacturers, suppliers and buyers to quickly **post and respond to needs**, **visualize supply chain risk**, **search for qualified manufacturers**, and **discover new business opportunities** within the state.

Maine MEP is now offering free access to CONNEX™ Maine. As a bonus, manufacturers who sign up in the **first 90 days of launch**—from October 16, 2023 through January 15, 2024—will receive a special offer: **two years of access to the full national CONNEX™ Marketplace**. This full subscription normally costs \$500 a year, so this is a \$1000 value just for signing up soon! Use promo code **Free2ME** to get this amazing limited-time deal.

By connecting Maine's manufacturers on one platform, CONNEX™ will strengthen Maine manufacturing, thus optimizing supply chains and growing Maine's manufacturing network and overall economy.

How does CONNEX™ benefit Maine manufacturers and suppliers?

Accessing CONNEX™ through Maine MEP can help your business in many ways, including:

- Customized searches to **find contracts**
- The ability to **receive RFPs/RFQs/RFIs** directly from buyers
- **Alternate sourcing** for parts and materials
- **Contract opportunities** within new industries
- A chance to **showcase your capabilities**, certifications, SBA designations, equipment and more for buyers to see
- Easy ways to **connect and respond directly** with OEMs, Primes or small businesses
- **Advertising and promotion opportunities** via your manufacturing profile, which allows buyers to easily find you based on your capabilities
- Updated **notifications** from relevant opportunities
- **One-on-one connections** between suppliers and buyers
- **A robust network** in partnership with over 140 manufacturing organizations across the country

How does my company get access to CONNEX™ Maine?

If you are a Maine manufacturer, you can request a **free** account through Maine MEP at mainemep.org/connex or by contacting us at contact@mainemep.org.

What is the cost for access to CONNEX™ Maine?

The in-state resources at CONNEX™ Maine are **free** of charge for manufacturers in Maine.

As a bonus for signing up early, you will also receive a free two-year subscription to the full, national CONNEX™ network. Simply create an account between October 16, 2023 and January 15, 2024 using promo code **Free2ME**.

After January 15, national subscriptions will cost \$500 per year.

Can CONNEX™ Maine help me see my supply chain and identify risks?

Yes! With CONNEX™ Maine, it's easy to visualize your entire supply chain and see suggested alternate suppliers to mitigate that risk. This information remains confidential to your company.

Can CONNEX™ help me find Maine suppliers?

Yes! You can use CONNEX™ Maine to search Maine manufacturers and quickly find the perfect supplier for your needs.

Plus, for a limited time, receive a free two year subscription to the full, national CONNEX™ Marketplace network. To receive this \$1000 value, create your account between October 16, 2023 and January 15, 2024 using promo code **Free2ME**.

How secure is my data?

Data security is always a top priority with CONNEX™. Your data is encrypted both at rest and in transit, and is never sold or shared. No one outside of your organization can see your confidential information without your express permission. CONNEX™ constantly updates its platform to meet the latest cybersecurity standards.

Can someone help me set up and optimize my profile?

Yes, with your permission, Maine MEP can assist you in building, optimizing and maintaining your profile. Maine MEP will offer training and support in:

- Creating and uploading your capability statements.
- Posting and responding to exchange center opportunities.
- Onboarding internal users and setting user permissions.

And Maine MEP will always be on hand to troubleshoot and serve as a liaison with CONNEX™.

How do I sign up for a CONNEX™ Maine account?

1. Visit mainemep.org/connex and click the JOIN CONNEX MAINE button.
2. Once on the login page, click the "Create an Account" link and fill out the necessary information.
3. Watch for a validation email and click on the link provided.
4. After clicking the link, log back in and finish creating your account.

Maine MEP will then review and verify your application for approval.

What is Maine MEP?

Maine MEP (Manufacturing Extension Partnership) is the most comprehensive resource available for manufacturers in Maine. Our network of experts meet you where you are, offering customized support for your goals, whether that's in getting started, addressing workforce challenges, developing and maintaining quality management systems, building leadership, implementing innovations, meeting safety requirements, preparing for critical transitions, optimizing productivity or growing profits.

How do I upgrade my free subscription to access the entire national database?

CONNEX™ Maine is the state-based version of the national CONNEX™ Marketplace platform. With your free account, you can see and interact with other Maine manufacturers and suppliers, helping boost networks and success within the state.

And with a limited-time offer, manufacturers who sign up in the **first 90 days of launch**—from October 16, 2023 through January 15, 2024—using promo code **Free2ME** will receive a valuable bonus: two years of access to the full national CONNEX™ Marketplace to see profiles and posted opportunities in other states as well.

After January 15, upgrading to the full national access of CONNEX™ Marketplace will still be easy and affordable: \$500 a year per company location with unlimited user licenses per location. To upgrade your account, you must first have a CONNEX™ Maine account (see below). Within that account, click on “My Subscriptions” and select “upgrade your account to CONNEX™ Marketplace” and enter your payment information or promo code. National membership can be canceled at any time.

Who can use CONNEX™?

The platform is open to all U.S. manufacturers and suppliers who make, assemble, fabricate, produce, machine or perform any type of manufacturing across any industry. The platform is not open to service providers, distributors or similar entities.

Who's behind CONNEX™ Maine?

CONNEX™ Maine is part of the CONNEX™ Marketplace national supply chain platform developed by i5 Services, a U.S. manufacturing solutions company. In Maine, CONNEX™ is licensed by Maine MEP, which is supported by the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development (Maine DECD) and the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, in partnership with the Maine International Trade Center (MITC), the Manufacturers Association of Maine (MAME), and Maine APEX.

Who do I contact with questions?

If you have questions or need more information, please contact the team at Maine MEP at (207) 623-0680 or contact@mainemep.org.

For technical support regarding the application, please contact the CONNEX™ help desk at support@connexmarketplace.com.



In partnership with



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