The Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) Program and 2013 Federal Funding Opportunity

AMTech Informational Webinars
August 15 & 20, 2013

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Gaithersburg, MD
Overview

Both Dates
• An Overview of AMTech and the 2013 Funding Opportunity

August 15th
• AMTech in the Context of Advanced Manufacturing and NIST
• Expectations and Outcomes
• AMTech Tech Eval Criteria and Performance Metrics
• Evaluation, Selection and Award Announcements

August 20th
• Responding to the FY 2013 Solicitation
• Preparing a Complete Application (Proposal)
• Budget and Administrative Documentation
• Grants.gov

Both Dates
• Competition Resources and Next Steps
• Questions
What is AMTech?

The Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) Program

Newly launched by NIST in FY 2013

- To incentivize the formation of and provide resources to industry-led consortia
  - To support basic and applied research
  - On long-term, pre-competitive and enabling technology development
- For the U.S. manufacturing industry

AMTech-supported consortia will strengthen the capacity of U.S. industry and the nation to compete in global markets
How Will AMTech Work?

• FY 2013 AMTech *planning awards* will fund eligible applicants to create new or strengthen existing industry-led technology consortia

• AMTech-supported consortia will:
  - Identify and prioritize long-term, pre-competitive industrial research needs;
  - Enable technology development;
  - Create the infrastructure necessary for more efficient transfer of technology;
  - Represent a broad range of involved firms across stages of the value chain.

• Once fully implemented, NIST envisions AMTech to offer funding in two broad areas: *planning awards* and *implementation awards*
For FY 2013
• Applications/proposals for planning awards only

Funding Level & Instrument
• Total funding available: approx. $4 M
• Award size: approx. $250 - $500K, up to 2 years
• Grant or Cooperative Agreement

Key Dates
• Solicitation released: July 24, 2013
• Informational webinars: August 15 & 20, 2013
• Pre-application (optional): September 6, 2013
• Full Application due: October 21, 2013
• Award Announcement: Q1, CY2014
Eligibility and Partnerships

• Collaborative partnerships that include broad participation by companies of all sizes, universities and government agencies to form an industry-led consortium are sought
• Eligible applicants may be any U.S. organization, located within the United States, excluding commercial organizations and federal entities
• An eligible applicant may work individually or include others effectively forming a team or consortium. Eligible subrecipients are the same types of organizations eligible to apply.
• Commercial organizations may participate in teams as contractors or in unfunded roles

Competition Resources

• Visit the AMTech Website at http://www.nist.gov/ampo/
• Direct Questions to amtech@nist.gov
Overview for Today

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Proposal Content

- SF-424, 424A, 424B, CD-511, SF-LLL
- Technical Proposal
- *Budget Narrative*
- *Indirect Cost Rate Agreement*
- Resumes of Key Personnel
- Required Letters of Commitment
- Letters of Interest
- SF-424A and budget narrative for known subrecipients

20 page limit, items in italics excluded from page limitation
Technical Proposal Contents

- Executive Summary
- Table of Contents
- Discussion Against Criteria
  - Identifying and Addressing Significant Challenges
    - Technical challenges may be in any area of advanced manufacturing
    - Must require solution that includes development of highly innovative, transformational technologies that are broadly deployable
    - Present scope and vision, goals, objectives and outcomes; challenges, proposed advances, and impacts to be realized
      - Common to an industry or sector
      - Demonstrate innovation
• Discussion Against Criteria (cont.)
  • Consortium and/or Roadmapping Development Plan
    • Plan for the entire life cycle
    • Participation by the full value chain (including SMEs)
    • Discuss methods used to select, assess and organize projects
    • How will stakeholders will be involved?
    • Outline processes to be used to gain consensus and disseminate results
    • Discuss progress monitoring and key milestones
    • Teaming and partnerships are encouraged
    • Describe sustainability planning
• **Discussion Against Criteria (cont.)**
  
  • **Resource Availability and Qualifications**
    • Describe resources and budget and demonstrate cost effectiveness and appropriateness to project goals and outcomes
    • Discuss proposed management/operational structure
    • Provide qualifications of key personnel and participating organizations

  - Proposal review will evaluate the technical proposal narrative against the evaluation criteria – important for applicants to assess the narrative for completeness
### The 2013 AMTech Funding Opportunity Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Identifying and Addressing Significant Challenges</th>
<th>0-30 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Consortium and/or Road-mapping Development Plan</td>
<td>0-50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Resource Availability and Qualifications</td>
<td>0-20 points</td>
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Budget Narrative

• Required for applicant and any known subrecipients
• Consistent with the technical narrative
• Detailed breakdown of each cost category on the SF-424A
  • Personnel
  • Fringe Benefits
  • Equipment
  • Travel
  • Supplies
  • Contracts/Subawards
  • Other Direct Costs
• Describes the necessity and basis for each element of cost
• Indirect Costs
  • Provide approved IDC Agreement if available
  • If no approved rate, establishment will be part of post-award requirements
• Administrative Requirements 15 CFR Part 14

• Cost Principles
  • For-profit companies: 48 CFR Part 31
  • Universities: 2 CFR Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 220 (OMB Circular A-21)
  • Non-profits: 2 CFR Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 230 (OMB Circular A-122)
  • State and local governments: 2 CFR Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 225 (OMB Circular A-87)
  • Hospitals: 45 CFR Part 74, Appendix E
Letters

• Required: Letters of Commitment
  • From each known proposed subrecipient and/or contractor organization and other collaborators (all team members)
  • Key personnel
• Optional: Letters of Interest
  • From interested third parties
    • Indicates a willingness to help accelerate establishment or strengthening of a consortium
    • May vouch for proposer’s knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct the proposed work
Team can consist of:

- Applicant (required)
- Subrecipient(s) (optional, as deemed appropriate)
- Contractor(s) (optional, as deemed appropriate)
- Collaborators (optional, as deemed appropriate)

Eligibility for contractors and collaborators is broader than for applicant and subrecipient(s).
Participant Types

- **Subrecipients** - Receive funds to perform significant project-related tasks (required to submit SF-424A and budget narrative)
  - Can be any eligible U.S. organization, excluding commercial organizations and federal entities, located in the United States, such as non-profit organizations, accredited institutes of higher education, and state, tribal, and local governments

- **Contractors/Vendors** - Provide supporting work, services, or materials to a project recipient for a fee; appear as contractor in applicant or subrecipient budget
  - Can be any eligible U.S. organization, including commercial organizations and federal entities, located in the United States, such as non-profit organizations, accredited institutes of higher education, and state, tribal, and local governments

- **Informal Collaborators** – Provide support to the project without receiving any Federal funding; are not included any budget documentation
  - Can be any eligible U.S. organization, including commercial organizations and federal entities, located in the United States, such as non-profit organizations, accredited institutes of higher education, and state, tribal, and local governments
The primary distinction between sub-recipient and vendor is the performance of programmatic work. A grantee can enter into a sub-recipient relationship using “contract” mechanism. Sub-recipient budgets are required for an award to be issued.
• Non-binding
• Use the SF-424 form
  • Fields:
    • 1 – Type of submission
    • 8 – Applicant information (all sections)
    • 12 – Funding Opportunity Number
    • 15 – Descriptive Title of the Applicant’s Project
    • 21 – Signature, Authorized Representative
• Information will be used to inform Program officials of potential areas of interest and to prepare for the review process
• Not evaluated for responsiveness to the FFO
• No down-selection conducted
• Submit via email to amtech@nist.gov
• Due date: September 6, 2013
Proposal Page Limits and Exclusions

- Page limit: 20 pages
- Includes: Technical proposal, including all figures, graphs, images and pictures
- Excludes:
  - Cover page
  - Required forms
  - Resumes
  - Letters
  - Budget Narrative
  - Bibliographies and Tables of Abbreviations
  - Human and Animal Subject Documentation (if applicable)
• Electronic submission using Grants.gov is **required** for AMTech Proposals
  • Announcement 2013-NIST-AMTECH-01
• **Begin Grants.gov registration *early!***
  • Proposers are strongly encouraged to start their Grants.gov registration process at least four weeks prior to the proposal submission due date.
  • New businesses w/o an Employer Identification Number (EIN) should allow at least two additional weeks to obtain the number and register.
  • A DUNS number and current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) are **required**
  • Submission must be by an Authorized Organization Representative
• **Waiting until the submission deadline is risky and NOT recommended!**
Applicants may be contacted during the proposal review process.

Additional information requests during proposal evaluation may include requests for:
- Corrections to forms
- Clarifications to budget items

Important that complete PI and contact information be provided as part of the SF424
- Turnaround time for information requests typically short

Contact information also used to provide notifications to applicants and to offer debriefings to unsuccessful applicants.
Protection of Proprietary Information

• Proposal information is only shared with reviewers and competition personnel
  • All Federal government employees
  • Confidentiality and Nondisclosure agreements signed
• Mark all proposals appropriately
Weaknesses to Avoid

- Outside of the solicitation scope
- Insufficient detail and/or unsupported assertions regarding key requirements
- Does not address necessary aspects of the evaluation criteria
- Incomplete proposal/Missing documents
- Failure to submit by the proposal deadline via grants.gov
- Ineligible applicant
Questions
Wrap up and Thank you

- **Visit the AMTech website at:** [www.nist.gov/ampo](http://www.nist.gov/ampo)
  - View FAQs and webinar recordings and slides
  - Join AMTech’s LinkedIn Group
- **Email questions to:** amtech@nist.gov
- **Key dates to remember:**
  - August 20, 2013 – Second AMTech webinar
  - September 6, 2013 - Pre-application (optional) by email
  - **October 21, 2013, 11:59 ET - Full Application due through Grants.gov (only)**
- **Complete a brief AMTech webinar survey at the conclusion of today’s event. Thank you!**