Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
2016 NIST NNMI Institute Competition

These "frequently asked questions" (FAQs) are a supplemental resource to the NIST 2016 NNMI Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) and are organized according to the FFO structure. The purpose of this informational document is to assist potential NIST NNMI Institute applicants in better understanding the program and the 2016 competition. Information contained herein is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements or the specific application requirements set forth in the FFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the FFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in the below FAQs. New questions and answers will be added periodically, as the need arises.

Note: Section numbers match the corresponding section in the FFO. Not all sections have FAQs.

I. Program Description		
A. National NNMI Program		
1. What Is the NNMI?	The National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) is a linked network of Institutes to support innovation in manufacturing across the United States. The NNMI fills a gap – the "missing middle" - between the nation's R&D, education and training activities and the scale up of technological innovations to large scale production along with a skilled workforce needed for the domestic production of goods. At their core, these individual Institutes for Manufacturing Innovation (Institutes) will be world-leading centers that bring together companies of all sizes, universities, community colleges and other educational institutions, state and local governments, the Federal government, and others to co-invest in the development of technologies that businesses can use to innovate production processes and new products. The Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. § 278s (c)(1)(C)) authorizes the NNMI Program.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2. Are there other programs similar to the NNMI?	NNMI is uniquely designed to meet the needs of the U.S. advanced manufacturing community. Other countries have established government-industry-academia partnerships to spur industrial innovation, and there are some similarities. Understanding and being aware of these other programs informs the U.S. approach to developing a manufacturing infrastructure. There is no one-size-fits-all approach for all countries, and the needs of the U.S. are different from others.	Posted: 2/19/2016
3. How did the Federal government come up with the design for the NNMI?	The federal interagency Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO) conducted an extensive public engagement initiative to communicate with and involve manufacturing broad set of stakeholders in the design of the NNMI program. This extensive input was used to develop the "National Network for Manufacturing Innovation: A Preliminary Design," a Federal report issued by the National Science and Technology Council. The report was publicly released at a design review workshop in Huntsville, Alabama, on January 16, 2013. It is located online here: http://www.manufacturing.gov/docs/nnmi_prelim_design.pdf	Posted: 2/19/2016

B. Individual NNMI Institutes		
1. What makes NNMI institutes different from other R&D institutes in the U.S.?	Briefly, NNMI institutes are specifically designed to be sustainable at the individual level while also supporting the national priority of advancing the competitiveness of the manufacturing sector. Each institute is a research center where industry, academia and government partner to conduct research and development into applied manufacturing technologies of a focused nature. The benefits of this research accrue to Institute members and, eventually, to the nation as a whole. The openness of Institutes to a large number of partners enables them to welcome small and medium-sized businesses which cannot normally afford such facilities. Finally, Institutes may also connect with one another to pool knowledge, conduct joint events, training workshops, and more. For more information, please see: - "The National Network for Manufacturing Innovation: A Preliminary Design," published in 2013 by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) with support from the AMNPO. It is online at: http://manufacturing.gov/docs/NNMI_prelim_design.pdf - About the NNMI Institutes and the NNMI Network, go to Manufacturing.gov	Posted: 2/19/2016
2. What types of activities would an Institute support?	Institute activities may include, but are not limited to: applied research and demonstration projects that reduce the cost and risk of commercializing new technologies or that solve generic industrial problems; education and training at all levels, from K-12 through professional training; development of innovative methodologies and practices for enhancing the capabilities of and integrating supply-chains; and engagement with small and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises (SMEs).	Posted: 2/19/2016
3. What is the value proposition for small manufacturers of joining an Institute? Typically, they cannot afford any costs not directly related to the bottom line.	The shared facility infrastructure provided by a NNMI Institute is an asset for all manufacturers and innovators, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). They benefit from information and services tailored specifically to SMEs, tiered fee structures and allowance of in-kind contributions to facilitate access when cash payment for membership is not feasible, staged licensing of intellectual property, workforce training, and more. Specific benefits vary by Institute and the associated SME.	Posted: 2/19/2016
4. How will the success of an Institute under the NNMI be determined?	The success of an Institute will be based on a number of factors, all of which point back to a successful business model and delivered value to its investors, especially those beyond the Federal government. Measures that may help to demonstrate that value include, for example, amount of (non-federal) co-investment, membership, and project successes. See "Guidance on Performance Metrics – NNMI (2015)" located at http://www.manufacturing.gov/pubs_resources.html	Posted: 2/19/2016

5.	Are any of the pre-applications or application of prior successful Institute awards available for review online? How about notes from debriefs of unsuccessful applications?	NIST does not share or publish any applications received as part of a funding opportunity for an NNMI Institute. Those documents generally contain both confidential and propriety information. Similarly, NIST does not share any results from its evaluation of those applications beyond the applicant.	Posted: 3/23/2016

C. State and Local Government Involvement in NNMI Institutes

1.	How are NNMI Institutes different from state or local regional clusters?	The NNMI is a national asset intended to strengthen clusters at all levels, supporting the regional innovation ecosystem, while linking them to a nationwide infrastructure that supports the needs of manufacturers.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	What is the role of state and local governments in forming an Institute?	State and local governments may partner with proposing teams to form an Institute and participate in its governance. Institute applications should outline clearly the methods by which decisions will be made, including those decisions related to partner rights and responsibilities. Additionally, regional solutions often require states to work together, sometimes across state lines.	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	Is NIST doing anything with this NNMI effort to ensure strong economic development partnerships?	The NNMI program since its conception has recognized the importance of regional resources and stakeholders for realizing economic benefits from the Institutes that are established. This includes state and local governments, regional economic development organizations, national technology based economic development groups, and other amplifiers such as the NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP). All of these entities, as well as others, may represent potential partnerships for applicants to the NIST NNMI Institutes competition.	Posted: 3/23/2016

II. Federal Award Information

A. Focus Area

1.	Why doesn't the competition name the Institute topic, like prior competitions sponsored by the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy?	The Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. § 278s (c)(1)(C)), which formally authorized the formation of the NNMI, provided the Department of Commerce the authority to sponsor institutes on any topic proposed by the private sector. This is complementary to the mission agencies which select topics which are important to advancing their respective mission.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	The Department of Defense (DOD) recently issued a Request for Information (RFI) on prospective institute topics. Is this NIST opportunity somehow the same thing? Why is the process different across agencies?	The DOD RFI and this NIST NNMI Funding Opportunity are two separate initiatives of the multi-agency NNMI Program. The DOD's establishment of NNMI institutes pre-dates the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act, which established the requirement for DOC to hold open-topic competitions. Therefore, they are within scope to seek to gain information regarding potential fits for their highest-priority mission areas. In contrast, this NIST NNMI Funding Opportunity uses an open topic approach for establishing an Institute allowed for under the RAMI authority.	Posted: 2/19/2016

3.	Should different Institutes under the NNMI have widely varying scopes and focus areas?	Absolutely. Each Institute will have a unique and well-defined focus area, such as an advanced material, a manufacturing process, an enabling technology, or an industry sector. The focus of each Institute will be on integrating capabilities through collaborations at facilities designed and equipped to address cross-cutting manufacturing challenges, yielding solutions that have the potential to retain, expand, or innovate industrial production in the United States.	Posted: 2/19/2016
4.	Are there any topics which are not eligible for an institute award?	Any area of advanced manufacturing will be considered so long as it does not duplicate or overlap the technical scope and programs of other federally funded Institutes within the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), or the technical focus area(s) that are identified within any in-progress Institute(s) funding opportunity announcement led by another federal agency.	Posted: 2/19/2016
5.	The NOI published December 2015 indicated that the NIST competition was open-topic with two areas of "special interest". This is not referenced in the FFO. Please explain.	The NIST competition is open to all topics, with no preferential scoring for any particular topic. To encourage the submission of topics addressing areas of critical national need, the NIST Notice of Intent (NOI) provided examples identified by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) Advanced Manufacturing Partnership. This only causes confusion on whether the competition was truly "open"; therefore, the FFO makes no mention of those or any other examples.	Posted: 2/19/2016
6.	Previous MIIs had stated topics, and required multiple bidders on topic for it to be a "valid" competition. For NIST is a single-proposal on a topic that has no topic competition considered fine/valid or of lower merit?	Multiple applications within a single focus area, or topic, does not define whether the topic or application sufficiently meets the goals of a NNMI Institute or is worthy of funding. The NIST open-topic competition uses evaluation criteria that are agnostic to any one specific focus area or topic. Thus for an application to have merit, it must stand on its own against those criteria.	Posted: 3/23/2016
7.	Other federal agencies have open/closed RFIs on possible MII topics. It is not possible to know whether specific topics from DOD or DOE will move forward, nor how those selected topics will be scoped by those agencies before the Pre-App and maybe not before the Full App is due. Does NIST advise that teams ignore or try to contrast with RFI-level topics from other agencies?	For an application to be responsive to the NIST NNMI funding opportunity, it must be uniquely different and complement existing Institutes within the NNMI network or any NNMI funding opportunity underway by another agency. An agency Request for Information (RFI) does not constitute a funding opportunity. NIST believes the open-topic competition provides the greatest opportunity for consideration of all potential areas of advanced manufacturing independent of whether they are the subject of possible consideration by another federal agency. Thus, some applicants, if they so wish, may have the opportunity to submit an application to NIST or another federal agency competition if they so wish. If NIST receives either a Pre-Application or Full Application with significant overlap to an announced federal funding opportunity, the applicants will be notified that their NIST application is no longer responsive.	Posted: 3/23/2016

8.	You mentioned that national impacts and benefits should extend beyond participants. Can you please elaborate and give examples? Is this more jobs and projects?	Benefits stemming from a successful Institute will fall across a range of categories including, as example, scientific and technical, economic, education and training, or national security. In addition, the RAMI legislation calls out a range of impacts and benefits, for NNMI Institutes. This also includes, but is not limited to jobs. Applicants should refer to the Pre-Application criterion #1 and associated sub-criteria 1.a and 1.b (Section V, pgs. 35-37 of the FFO) and Full Application criterion 1.b (Section V, pgs. 42-43) for further information. Applicants may also wish to refer to the RAMI legislation, Ref 2 within the FFO, Section (d).(4).(E), Considerations (pgs. 637-638).	Posted: 3/23/2016
9.	Please elaborate on the complementary nature of proposal Institutes relative to existing ones? Are links to other NNMIs viewed positively?	The Institutes that are a part of the NNMI network must each contribute substantially to the NNMI program objectives, including improving the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing, stimulating U.S. leadership, accelerating the development of an advanced manufacturing workforce, and leveraging non-Federal sources of support to promote a stable and sustainable business model. To best accomplish this, a competitive application should demonstrate a unique technology focus that complements the focus of existing or announced Institutes within the network and offer a business plan that supports the ability of the proposed Institute to meet the program objectives. As new Institutes are established, each will become part of the NNMI network and include opportunities for collaborations with Institutes across the network.	Posted: 3/23/2016
10.	Is the list of 135 unique topics identified by the public available online?	In April 2012, a broad public engagement strategy by the Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO) was used to "crowd source" the NNMI program design, initiated by a federally sponsored Request for Information (RFI) and a series of regional workshops. Comments in response to the RFI were accepted through October 25, 2012 and were published as NISTIR G2013-1050, available on manufacturing.gov. The report contains a full list of technology focus areas suggested by respondents they would be willing to co-invest in. This list does not impact or contribute to the potential merit of any application received by NIST for the competition underway.	Posted: 3/23/2016
B. Funding			
1.	What constitutes "cost-sharing?"	A contribution from any non-Federal source that directly supports Institute functioning. Both in-kind and cash contributions count toward the requirement. It must be tangible, meaningful, and substantial enough in the aggregate to signal strong and committed industry, regional, and local partnership. Each different type of cost-share has its own merits and uncertainties when used for an Institute application. For more information, see "Guidance on Merits and Uncertainties of Cost Share.docx" on http://www.nist.gov/amo/nnmi/2016competition.cfm and the FFO for more details on cost-sharing.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	How many years of federal support will be provided?	NIST anticipates funding approximately $70 million for each Institute, distributed across five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for an additional two (2) years, subject to the appropriation and availability of funds, required approval of spend plans and the subsequent apportionment to NIST.	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	After federal funding has ceased, how will institutes become self-sustaining?	Each Institute has its own business plan and model, but the 2013 report "National Network for Manufacturing Innovation: A Preliminary Design" http://www.manufacturing.gov/docs/nnmi_prelim_design.pdf outlines a notional approach for sustainability. Over time, revenue is expected to increase for successful Institutes from membership dues, project fees, user fees, intellectual property licensing, and competitive federal awards and contracts.	Posted: 2/19/2016

4.	Please provide an example of $70 M Institute funding that is distributed over 5 years and has decreasing funding.	The table presents two notional federal program budget profiles for an Institute for an initial award of up to five (5) project years. The example budget profiles meet the requirements set forth in the 2016 NIST NNMI FFO and are provided for illustrative purposes solely. Period 1, up to twelve months, constitutes the Institute Startup Phase. Ongoing Institute Operations begin in Period 2, which may be 12 months or more, depending on the duration of Period 1. Other budget profiles that meet the requirements stated within the FFO are possible. Further information is available within the "Notional Multi-year Institute Budget" document found on the NIST NNMI Competition webpage.	Updated: 3/23/2016 Posted: 2/19/2016

Performance Period	Period 1*	Period 2#	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Total
Institute Phase	Startup*	Ongoing Institute Operations				
Example 1						
Gov't Funding	$ 12.0	$ 18.0	$ 16.0	$ 14.0	$ 10.0	**$ 70**
Cost Sharing†	$ 12.0	$ 18.0	$ 16.0	$ 14.0	$ 10.0	**$ 70**
Total Institute Funding						**$140**
Example 2						
Gov't Funding	$ 8.0	$ 18.0	$ 16.0	$ 14.5	$ 13.5	**$ 70**
Cost Sharing†	$ 8.0	$ 18.0	$ 16.0	$ 14.5	$ 13.5	**$ 70**
Total Institute Funding						**$140**

Startup Phase (up to 12 calendar months)
 # First full period of operations (could be greater than 12 months)
† Minimum for eligibility, met annually

5.	On cost-share, can you explain to us the rationale of cash to in-kind match that has been acceptable on the awarded DOD & DOE NNMI Institutes?	Each agency that has awarded an NNMI Institute used their own authority and funding opportunity to establish the cost share requirements for the Institutes they have awarded. Parties should contact the respective DOD or DOE Institute or program managers if they wish to understand better the cost share and mix of cost share those programs either required or found acceptable. A complete listing of NNMI Institutes funded to date and the agencies that have funded them can be found at www.manufacturing.gov.	Posted: 3/23/2016
6.	The FFO does not appear to specify the maximum federal contribution for "startup + Year 1", so is there an expected maximum federal contribution to "startup" or to "startup + year1"?	The FFO does not specify an upper limit to the first performance period of funding that is directed to the Institute Startup Phase. It has been the experience from other NNMI Institutes that have been formed the needed time and money varies depending on the readiness level of the lead organization. The proposed budget should be appropriate for completing Institute startup and matched to the lead's pre-existing level of readiness. In so doing, it best preserves federal and cost sharing funds for the Institute's ongoing operations. A notional range of Federal funds that may be needed for startup may be $1 million to $8 million.	Posted: 3/23/2016
7.	If a company provides $100,000 of unencumbered cost-	The ability of an Institute to accomplish its approved work plan will depend on the mix of the various types of approved, committed cost share that is assembled by the Institute. So in some situations replacing cash cost share with a 3rd party in-kind cost-share will	Posted: 5/19/2016

share during the startup phase of the NNMI, and after 2 years, and without warning they no longer can afford to contribute cost share so they decided to stop contributing. Can we replace the cost share with other cost share from a completely different source? For example, can we replace cash with 3rd part in-kind, or another company that is a different company? Do we have to replace the cost share?	have no impact on the activities, in other situations the Institute will not be able to substitute one type of cost share for another. (Recommending reading the article on the NNMI Competition webpage titled; "Guidance on Merits and Uncertainties of Cost Sharing Components.") As stated in 2 CFR 200.99 Voluntary committed cost sharing: "Voluntary committed cost sharing means cost sharing specifically pledged on a voluntary basis in the proposal's budget or the Federal award on the part of the non-Federal entity and that becomes a binding requirement of Federal award." Therefore, the awardee is required to maintain cost share at the levels which were committed to in the full-application.	
8. Is there a distinction in this responsibility for cost-share gathered beyond the mandated 1:1 ratio? For example, suppose that our Institute reports $210 million in cost-share excluding the Federal award of $70 million (a ratio of 3:1). It is selected to receive the award, but a large contributor reneges on their agreement, leaving the Institute with $190 in non-federal funding (still well above the 1:1 ratio). Is it then legally responsible to provide the $210 in non-federal cost-share?	No. Once the award has been executed, the awardee is legally responsible for maintaining the minimum agreed upon non-federal cost-share amount.	Posted: 5/19/2016
III. Eligibility Information		
A. General Eligibility		

1.	Which entities are eligible to submit Pre-Applications? Universities? Industry? Consortia?	Eligible applicants are: - Non-profit organizations; - Accredited institutions of higher education; - State, local, and Tribal governments; and - For-profit organizations that are organized and operated in the United States (including U.S. territories) with majority domestic ownership or control. Ineligible applicants are: - Federal agencies, and - Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	What is the ideal mix of partners to compete for a NNMI-funded Institute?	The ideal mix of partners will depend on the proposed Institute focus, but should include all relevant stakeholders needed to develop the infrastructure envisioned by the NNMI program. Participation by large industry (anticipated to be a significant co-investor in the Institute), small and medium manufacturers, local universities and community colleges, research organizations, career and technical institutions, and other state, regional, and local public and private entities is likely to be valuable.	Posted: 2/19/2016
B. Specific Types of Domestic Applicants			
1.	What role can Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) play with respect to this funding opportunity?	At the time of application, a FFRDC may not be included as a funded subrecipient or contractor. After an award is issued: – Institutes will be expected to interact with FFRDCs, as appropriate, in a number of manners consistent with those organizations' respective missions / purposes. Institutes are encouraged to utilize federal entities to support the program goals. – FFRDCs may be allowed as subrecipients or contractors, based on the unique and specific needs of the Institute, subject to the provisions of FAR 35.017-1.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	Is it possible for third-party contractors to contribute cost share dollars towards this award?	No, contractors may not contribute cost share. Applicants, proposed sub-recipients and third party organizations, however, may provide cost sharing, per 2 C.F.R. § 200.306 and 2 C.F.R. part 200, Subpart E.	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	May federal agencies apply?	No.	Posted: 2/19/2016
4.	How can a small private entity participate in this call for proposals?	So while there is nothing in the FFO that would preclude a small private entity from leading a team to develop an institute proposal or being part of the collaboration team, for many small firms the challenge will be to identify and connect with those teams who desire to, or are planning on submit a proposal for a particular Institute. Events like Proposers Day are one-way firms might connect with others teams. Also, since organizations like the MEP Centers are fully integrated into the Manufacturing ecosystem in their regions, reaching out to organizations like the MEP Centers to determine whether or/not they may be able to identify teams planning on responding to the FFO is another option.	Posted: 3/23/2016
5.	What are the opportunities for small businesses?	Within the FFO it states, the Institutes are to engage the U.S. small- and medium-sized manufacturing enterprises (SMEs) and global supply-chains, through organization including but not limited to the NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and regional centers, to meet their needs and to ensure results reach small and	Posted: 3/23/2016

medium-sized entities. Specifically, it is expected that SMEs will benefit in the following ways;

- Small and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers are made aware of the technologies (applying to both products and processes), technical methods, technological approaches, resources, and assets of the Institutes;
- Small and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers are involved in the processes and activities associated with informing and developing the research agendas of the Institutes;
- Small and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers are represented in the conduct of research projects occurring through the Institutes; and
- The results of research occurring through the Institutes are transitioned to small and medium-sized U.S. manufacturers for implementation.

C. Foreign Organizations

| 1. | May foreign-owned or foreign-controlled organizations apply or become part of an Institute once an award is issued? | Organizations that are majority foreign-owned or foreign-controlled are not eligible as applicants, subrecipients or contractors at the time of application. However, they may be included in a team or consortium as an unfunded collaborator, if they are organized and operated in the U.S. Once an award has been issued, NIST will review on a case-by-case basis whether majority foreign-owned or foreign-controlled entities organized and operated in the U.S. may be allowed as subrecipients or contractors based on the unique and specific needs of the Institute. | Posted: 2/19/2016 |

D. Change of Applicant

1.	If invited to submit a Full Application, can we "re-team" with additional members and with others who submitted Pre-Applications but were not invited to submit Full Application?	Yes. Once invited to submit a Full Application, the original "team" may choose to strengthen their application by adding members to their team. This includes adding others who submitted a Pre-Application, but were not invited to submit a Full Application.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	May a successful pre-applicant change the lead entity to another eligible entity before submitting its Full Application?	Yes. Please note that the applicant must provide written notice of its intent to change the proposed lead entity or revise its requested budget amount prior to submission of its Full Application. Written notices should be submitted by mail to Jessica Strickler, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 4700, Gaithersburg MD 20899, or by e-mail to jessica.strickler@nist.gov. (See section V.5.e within the FFO.)	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	Is notification of any additional re-teaming for the Full submission required? Including sub awardees and unpaid collaborators/partners?	For this notification, we do not need to know specific details on the new team (either at the sub-recipient or unpaid levels), all we need to know is that they plan to reteam and will update the budget from the one proposed in the Pre-Application. This is just a formality and we do not need details. Written notices should be submitted by mail to Jessica Strickler, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 4700, Gaithersburg MD 20899, or by e-mail to jessica.strickler@nist.gov.	NEW Posted: 6/28/2016

4.	a. Can you elaborated what you have in mind regarding "re-teaming"? b. Would NIST direct or encourage re-teaming prior to the full app? (i.e., between pre-app & full app)?	a. Within the FFO reteaming is discussed as follows; "A successful Pre-Applicant may … reteam by adding new participants or collaborators. " Therefore, if an applicant is invited to submit a full application as a result of a successful pre-application, it is anticipated the applicate may want to add or replace a participate or collaborator for multiple reasons (e.g., better resource identified, identified another organization which could enhance the quality of the response, etc. …). Therefore, on Section V of the FFO, item 5.e (pg. 59 & 60) was included in the FFO language to provide clarity to proposers that NIST anticipates re-teaming to occur. b. It is not anticipated that NIST would either encourage or discourage reteaming. Determining whether it is necessary to reteam to improve the quality of the full application is completely at the discretion of the proposer. The purpose of highlighting the reteaming within the FFO is to let all potential proposers know, that it anticipates this practice will occur.	Posted: 3/23/2016
E. Intellectual Property			
1.	What if there are inventions made under the award?	Each funded Institute is required to establish and finalize within the Institute Startup Phase a number of agreements, including management of intellectual property. Under the Bayh-Dole Act, government funded inventions must be reported to the federal agency who made the award. This disclosure must be made electronically at www.iedison.gov.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	What do we do if we plan on using any NIST-owned intellectual property?	Please review Section VI.2.f. of the Federal Funding Opportunity, "Use of NIST Intellectual Property."	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	Can you review IP protocol? What is required for the Pre-Application and/or post-award?	The recipient is expected to comply with all the requirements of the standard patent rights clause and 37 CFR Part 401. Recipients of DOC financial assistance awards are required to submit their disclosures and elections electronically using the Interagency Edison extramural invention reporting system (iEdison) at www.iedison.gov. Recipients may obtain a waiver of this electronic submission requirement by providing to DOC compelling reasons for allowing the submission of paper copies of reports related to inventions. These are post-award requirements. However, please review Section VI. f. (pg. 61) in the FFO regarding the use of NIST Intellectual Property.	Posted: 3/23/2016
F. Other Questions			
1.	How can I find out about small and medium manufacturers who would be interested in teaming?	Visit your local Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) center (http://ws680.nist.gov/mepmeis/FindYourLocalCenter.aspx). They will be able to help make those connections.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	Are we allowed to invite existing NNMIs to become members of the NIST-proposed Institute?	There is no restriction on having another NNMI as a member of your Institute.	Posted: 5/19/2016
IV. Pre-Application/Full Application and Submission Information			
A. Schedule			
1.	What is the schedule for Pre-Application submission and Full Application submission?	NIST required Pre-Applications under this FFO. The Pre-Applications were evaluated using the criteria in the section V.1.a of the FFO and those found to be of merit were invited to submit a Full Application. − Pre-Applications were received electronically through Grants.gov by April 20, 2016, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). Materials received after this deadline were not reviewed or considered.	Updated: 6/3/2016 Posted:

		– Review of Pre-Applications, selection, and notification to applicants was completed by May 23, 2016. Selected proposers were invited to submit a Full Application. – Full Applications must be received electronically through Grants.gov no later than July 22, 2016, 11:59 p.m. ET. Materials received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered. – Submission of Full Applications is limited to applicants who have submitted a Pre-Application <u>and</u> who have been invited by NIST to submit a Full Application.	
2.	What is the anticipated schedule for notification of awardees?	The anticipated timeframe for awards is subject to change and are currently expected to be within the first calendar quarter of 2017.	Posted: 2/19/2016
B. Budget			
1.	How much federal funding will be available?	NIST anticipates funding approximately $70 million for each Institute, distributed across five (5) years with the possibility of renewal for an additional two (2) years, subject to the appropriation and availability of funds, required approval of spend plans and the subsequent apportionment to NIST.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	What if we do not have an indirect cost rate agreement?	Any non-federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate may choose to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs which may be used indefinitely. You may at any time choose to negotiate an indirect cost rate with your cognizant agency.	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	Will the Dept. of Commerce negotiate indirect cost rate agreements with for-profit subawardees?	No. Under 200.331, the relationship is between the Prime (Awardee) and the sub-recipient. In other words, if the Awardee issues sub-awards to any organization, the Awardee becomes a Pass Through Entity. Awardees will have a contract/sub-recipient agreement with the entity and can negotiate a rate agreement with them, however, they are not obligated to do so. If the Awardee chooses to negotiate, they may use federal funds to do so. See 200:331.6: https://cfo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/9.9.15-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf	NEW Posted: 6/28/2016
4.	What is cost-sharing or matching?	Cost-sharing or matching means the portion of project costs not paid by Federal funds. It includes all contributions of cash and in-kind that a recipient or third party (excluding contractors) makes towards the project. Each different type of cost-share has its own merits and uncertainties when used for an Institute application. Please review the document "Guidance on Merits and Uncertainties of Cost Share" found on the Helpful Resources section of the competition website, www.nist.gov/amo/nnmi/2016competition.cfm, that outlines the merits and uncertainties associated with different examples of cost-sharing.	Posted: 2/19/2016
5.	What is the expected cost-sharing or matching amount?	For an application to be eligible, at least 50% of total project costs annually from non-federal sources over the lifetime of the award is required. In addition, applications will be evaluated to as to whether the non-Federal financial support provided to the proposed Institute from non-Federal sources will significantly exceed the requested Federal financial assistance for the proposed Institute. Lastly, RAMI also requires that weighted preference will be given to applications that provide greater than 1:1 cost share of funds in the proposed budget.	Posted: 2/19/2016

		Please note the Federal financial assistance provided to the Institute shall decrease after the second year of funding and continue to decrease each year in which Federal financial assistance is provided. Federal financial assistance shall not exceed 50% of the total funding of the Institute of that year. Refer to the federal funding opportunity Section III.5.	
6.	What activities are not allowed with NNMI funding?	Awardees will be required to follow the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (December 2014) as well as the appropriate cost principles outlined in 2 C.F.R. 200, Subpart E for Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) or nonprofit organizations and 48 C.F.R. Part 31, Subpart 31.2 for-profit organizations.	Posted: 2/19/2016
7.	What is the federal definition of equipment?	As stated in 2 C.F.R §200.33, equipment is tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser value established by the non-Federal entity for financial statement purposes, or $5,000.	Posted: 2/19/2016
8.	What is the amount for a large equipment purchase?	A large equipment purchase is the acquisition of any singular piece of eligible equipment that cost $500,000 or more. An analysis must be made of lease versus purchase alternatives. Please review the footnotes on page 17 of the federal funding opportunity.	Posted: 2/19/2016
9.	What is the dollar threshold for the purchase of large capital facilities?	Purchase of large capital facilities is defined at $500,000 or more, and are limited to the costs allowable under the OMB Uniform Guidance at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E – Cost Principles. An analysis must be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, as well as any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach. Please review the footnotes on page 17 of the federal funding opportunity.	Posted: 2/19/2016
10.	What is the difference between subawards vs. contracts?	Subawards are awards of financial assistance made under an award by a recipient to an eligible sub-recipient or by a sub-recipient to a lower tier-sub-recipient. Subawards could provide cost-share. Subrecipient is a non-Federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal program. Please review 2 C.F.R. §200.93 for the full definition. Contracts are used to acquire through purchase, lease or barter, property or services.	Posted: 2/19/2016
11.	Do we have to have all our cost-sharing partners determined by the pre-application deadline?	No. However, please review section V.3 (pg. 39) of the FFO regarding Pre-Application assessment of Resources, Qualifications and Experience for the Proposed Institute.	Posted: 3/23/2016
12.	Should the cost-sharing be part of the budget described in the pre-proposal?	Yes. As stated in the FFO section V.3 (pg. 39)- "The Pre-Application will be evaluated for the source and amount of cost-sharing from non-Federal sources assembled to date, and whether the non-Federal support will significantly exceed the Federal financial assistance required."	Posted: 3/23/2016
13.	Suppose an applicant offers 140% cost-share,	As stated in 2 CFR 200.99 Voluntary committed cost sharing: "Voluntary committed cost sharing means cost sharing specifically pledged on a voluntary basis in the proposal's	Posted: 3/23/2016

	but fall short and fulfills on 50% cost-share. What would be the consequences?	budget or the Federal award on the part of the non-Federal entity and that becomes a binding requirement of Federal award."	
14.	Does type of cost share matter? Quality of cost-share?	Please see the Table of Cost Share Components and Contributors on the NNMI competition webpage under the "Suggested Templates and Guidance". It provides guidance of the various risks associated with different types of cost share. These risks may affect the cost share assessment. Please review Section V (pgs. 51 – 52) of the FFO regarding cost-sharing with specific emphasis on known committed cost sharing vs anticipated committed cost sharing.	Posted: 3/23/2016
15.	Can recent investments by partners/members be recognized toward match? (past 12 months, past 24 months?)	Unless the investment has a tangible value that can be assessed and prorated such as equipment etc., past investments will not be counted towards award match.	Posted: 3/23/2016
16.	On weighted preference for proposals requesting less than max fed share of funds, does this mean: 1) Less than 40% federal cost share, OR 2) Less than $75 million over 5 years requested, OR 3) both/either?	The RAMI legislation contains three considerations of cost-sharing. First, it requires at least 50% of the total costs annually from non-federal sources (cost sharing) over the lifetime of the award, except in periods of large capital facilities or equipment purchases, subject to approval by NIST (FFO, Section III.5, pgs. 18-19). Any application received that does not meet this requirement will fail to be eligible and considered further. In addition, RAMI requires evaluation whether the financial support to be provided to an Institute, and assembled by the applicant, from non-federal sources (cost sharing) significantly exceeds the Federal share being requested. Thus this aspect is part of the evaluation criteria (FFO, Pre-Application Criterion Section V.3.b (pg. 40) and Full Application Criterion Section V.4.b (pg. 51-52). Lastly, RAMI also directs NIST to give weighted preference to applicants seeking less than the maximum Federal share of funds; that is, weighted preference to applications that provide greater than 1:1 cost sharing for the proposed Institute (FFO, Section V.2. (5) - Selection Factor (5), pg. 55). The practical aspect of the second and third aspects of cost sharing is that for a NIST NNMI Institute application, more is better.	Posted: 3/23/2016
17.	The ROM budget templates header seems to indicate that the ROM budget is to be included in the pre-application. Does this mean it's a separate attachment, (not counting towards the 20pgs)? Or, are you expecting a table to be inserted into the 20pgs, essentially a picture of the ROM budget template?	If the ROM Budget template is used for the Pre-Application, it will count towards the 20-page limit. The applicant is only required to use the SF-424 form to provide the ROM budget; however, it is important to provide sufficient narrative about the budget for evaluation (see Section IV.1.a.3 of the FFO) within the Abbreviate Application Narrative.	Posted 5/19/2016
18.	Is it permissible to use program income as cost share (including membership fees and fees for service)?	An applicant may use program income as cost share after taking into consideration the entire NIST-NNMI program requirements. Prior approval of program income is not required for submission of application; however, please note that program income should be verifiable and requires Grants Officer's approval before it can be used for cost share.	Posted: 5/19/2016

19.	We have a NIST co-funded building, opened in 2013 as a public private partnership building, with several open labs expressly reserved for businesses. Can we use the lease rate and square footage as a cost share for industry-university interactions?	If NIST is still paying anything for the building, then you would need to prorate the cost share amount.	Posted: 5/19/2016
20.	Is the applicant legally responsible if a member committed cost-share during the proposal phase but pulled out or reduced their contribution between then and receiving the award?	No, the applicant is not legally responsible if a member committed cost-share during the proposal phase but pulled out or reduced their contribution between then and receiving the award. However, cost sharing or matching is an evaluation criterion for the full application and significant changes from the committed resources may impact the application's success. See pages 50-52 of the FFO.	Posted: 5/19/2016
21.	Are there any unique stipulations for counting cost-share from a host university?	For cost-share from a host university, Section IV.3.a.(14) of the federal funding opportunity (FFO) states that a letter of commitment is required from an authorized representative stating the total amount of cost share to be contributed by the applicant towards the proposed activity. Other than the letter, contributions from the University are reported in the same way as other sources of cost share and follow the same requirements outlined in the FFO.	NEW Posted: 6/28/2016
22.	From the FFO Section II.17.e, supplies – A list of each supply and the breakdown of the total costs by quantity or unit of cost. Include the necessity of the cost for the completion of the award. The guidance on the Budget Narrative Template states a supply item has a cost of less than 5k, the equipment threshold. What is the expectation for small consumable supplies, items that cost only pennies?	You are allowed to group those low cost items together to enter a single line item such as misc. consumable supplies and give it total unit costs. You do not have to itemize each item with each unit costs. In your budget narrative, please provide a list of items for which you plan on using the funds in the additional explanations and comments section (if you plan on using the NNMI suggested template for the budget narrative). Dollar threshold for individual item: anything less than $500.00 can be grouped together. Ex. Misc. Consumable Items $200 In your narrative: Costs cover items such as pens, post-its, ink, etc.	NEW Posted: 6/28/2016
23.	Are indirect costs allowable cost share, i.e., is IDC associated	Yes. Please visit http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=se2.1.200_1414&rgn=div8 for more information.	NEW Posted: 6/28/2016

	with direct cost items used as cost share allowable as cost share?		
C. Formatting			
1.	Can we use color charts in the application?	Yes.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	Can we use web links in the application?	Yes. However, please note that the evaluation panel will only look at information that is in the application. This means that they will not go online to access and read the information contained at any web links provided.	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	Any limitations on fonts or font sizes?	The font must be legible and 10-point at the minimum. Smaller type is acceptable for figures and tables, but must also be clearly legible. It is advisable to err on the side of a larger font if one is unsure.	Updated: 2/28/2016
4.	Would NIST accept and review video as an addition to the required documents?	No, video cannot be submitted during the application phase. All applications, including forms, must be typed.	NEW Posted: 6/28/2016
D. Other Questions			
1.	May I ask a Federal legislator for a letter and include the letter in my application?	Yes, a letter of interest from a legislator can be included, just as any letter of interest from any interested stakeholder. Letters of interest from legislators are not weighed any differently than other letters contained within the application. (Please note, letters of commitment are only provided for parties that commit specific resources or funding to the project.)	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	May we submit a letter of interest from an FFRDC or a federally owned and operated lab? Similarly, may be submit a letter of commitment from an FFRDC or federally owned and operated lab, if we use the disclaimer that we will not participate in the application preparation but post award, we look forward to working together.	You may submit a letter of interest from an FFRDC or a federally owned and operated lab. You may also submit a letter of commitment from an FFRDC or federally owned and operated lab, with the disclaimer.	NEW Posted: 6/28/2016

3.	Should a letter of commitment be included in the pre-proposal?	Letters of commitment in of themselves are not required for Pre-Applications. However, a competitive Pre-Application must provide some form of evidence of industry's financial commitment and the potential of the applicant to leverage non-Federal sources of financial support, as explained within the Pre-Application criterion 3.b (Section V, pg. 40) of the FFO. An applicant should refer to this criterion for more information.	Posted: 3/23/2016
4.	Can we send in our application by email, or alternatively by regular (postal) mail?	No, you may not. Applicants are required to submit their applications using Grants.gov. NIST will not accept applications via email or regular mail. Since applications cannot be submitted when Grants.gov is closed for routine maintenance, applicants should be aware, and factor this into your submission timeline. A complete schedule can be found at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/outreach/calendar.html.	Posted: 2/19/2016
5.	What proactive steps can we take to prepare for a possible submission?	1) Make sure that your System for Award Management (SAM.gov) registration is up to date (annual registration required), or register for the first time. The free annual registration process in SAM.gov may take between three and five business days or as long as more than two weeks. 2) Make sure that you are currently registered on Grants.gov. 3) If you do not have a DUNS number, take the time now to obtain one.	Posted: 2/19/2016
6.	Where do we go to register on Grants.gov?	Please visit the following URL: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html	Posted: 2/19/2016
7.	Where do we go to register on SAM.gov?	Please visit the following URL: https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/#1	Posted: 2/19/2016
8.	Where do we go to apply for a DUNS number?	Please visit the following URL: http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/displayHomePage.do	Posted: 2/19/2016
9.	Any advice for submissions?	We strongly recommend that you not wait until the last minute to submit your application. NIST will not make any allowances for late submissions, including but not limited to incomplete Grants.gov registration. Grants.gov will send a series of e-mail messages over a period of up to two business days before you learn whether a Federal agency's electronic system has received your application.	Posted: 2/19/2016
10.	You mentioned 'substantial involvement' of NIST: How does this partnership need to be reflected in the proposal? Does it need to be addresses at all?	a. It depends, but not necessarily. The award is structured as a cooperative agreement which by definition includes substantial involvement by NIST. The semi-annual meetings required as part of the federal funding opportunity is an example of substantial involvement. Working with the NIST program office (AMO) is part of the substantial involvement portion of the award. b. However, if NIST has resources that you plan on using in any part of the startup or operational phase in your proposal, please state them.	Posted: 3/23/2016
11.	Realizing that the NNMI opportunity limits pre-applications to one per institution,	According to the FFO, your organization can submit an application to participate as the leading organization in only one application submitted to NIST. You may participate as a sub-recipient, contractor, or unfunded collaborator in more than one application, there is no limit on the number of applications in which you can participate.	Posted: 3/23/2016

	could you clarify if an institution may participate as a subrecipient, contractor, or unfunded collaborator on more than one application.		
12.	The SF-424 instructions state it must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization. Do we need to print the SF-424 obtain a signature, scan the document and attach it to the application? Or, is the grants.gov electronic signature sufficient?	The instructions in the FFO and the actual SF-424 form on Grants.gov say "sign". But in fact, the SF-424 form is part of the application package on the Grants.gov system and there is no way to actually "sign" it, and then submit a scanned form as part of the application package on Grants.gov. The Grants.gov system supplies the signature information based on the AOR credential for the person who signs into the system to submit. http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration/step-4-aor-authorization.html	Posted: 3/23/2016
13.	Should we earn the privilege to get invited to submit a Full Application, we have a significant number of industry partners and we are concerned what will be required from them during the application phase? Will they need to make a contractual commitment (pre-award) or will a Letter of Commitment meet the requirement?	See Section IV.A.(14) starting on page 25 of the FFO - Required Letters of Commitments are required from any person or entity that plans to provide specific resources or funding to the proposed Institute in the event that the application is funded. These include: a) Subawards or contracts to know third parties, in some cases effectively forming a team, b) Key Personnel who are willing to fill vacancies on the applicant's or subrecipient's staff who are identified within the application, and c) from the applicant for any cost-share/matching that they will provide. Pre-Award, contractual commitments are not required. NOTE: Letters of commitment for all third-party sources of non-Federal cost sharing identified in an application are not required, but are strongly encouraged. Applications without commitment letters for each item of third-party, non-Federal cost sharing may be considered less favorably during the application review process. Letters of Interests are optional and they may be used to indicate willingness from any third party to support this proposed effort, or wishing to vouch for the applicant's knowledge, skills, and abilities of the applicant. If used to indicate willingness to support this effort they should outline the nature and importance of the collaboration or involvement being offered. See pages 25-26 of the FFO for full details concerning Letters of Commitment and Letters of Interest.	Posted: 5/19/2016
VI. Federal Award Administration Information			
A. Information Exchange			
1.	Where can I find information about the NIST NNMI competition?	Please visit Grants.gov and the competition website at www.nist.gov/amo/nnmi/2016competition.cfm for the most up-to-date information about the NIST NNMI competition. A Proposers' conference will be offered and available for in person attendance and via webcast. An archived recording will be available on the competition website.	Posted: 2/19/2016

2.	What if I have a question that has not been addressed within a FAQ?	Send your question by email to: nnmifund@nist.gov . Responses to questions of broad interest will be posted as a FAQ on the competition website at www.nist.gov/amo/nnmi/2016competition.cfm. The list will be periodically updated as the need arises.	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	What is the deadline for submitting questions? Is there one?	There is no deadline for submitting questions to NIST.	Posted: 3/23/2016
4.	I've worked with NIST employees before. Can I ask a former colleague there about the competition or get them to write a letter of interest or support?	No. NIST employees are prohibited from helping any potential applicant prepare an application so as to avoid any unfair advantage or conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest. Examples of prohibited exchanges include, but are not limited to: detailed technical or business discussions with potential applicants, their proposing partners, industry groups, or others that are likely to participate in the intended NIST NNMI institute competition. NIST employees are also not allowed to offer any letter of interest or support to any applicant.	Posted: 2/19/2016

B. Funds Withdrawal

1.	How will a funded Institute withdraw funds?	NIST uses Automated Standard Application for Payments – on the web (ASAP) to disburse funds for Institute recipients.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	What do we do with any remaining funds at the conclusion of the grant?	The recipient will refund any balances of unobligated cash that NIST has advanced or paid and that is not authorized to be retained by the recipient to use in other projects.	Posted: 2/19/2016

C. Auditing & Reporting Requirements

1.	Where can I find standard reporting forms?	Check https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms for copies of standard reporting forms.	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	What will be the reporting requirements for this award?	Technical progress reports and financial reports will be due on a quarterly basis for performance periods ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year. Reports will be due 30 days after the end of the reporting period.

If the total value of the recipient's total active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts exceeds $10 million, the recipient is subject to requirements outlined Section VI.3.a.(4) in the federal funding opportunity.

Select recipients may be required to submit property and patent reports.

Institutes under this award are also required by RAMI to submit an annual report to the Secretary of Commerce. | Posted: 2/19/2016 |

3.	Is there a standard format for the financial and technical reports?	For financial reports, yes, go to https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms to retrieve the SF425 Federal Financial Report. For technical progress reports, there is no specific format, however, they must cover the information outlined in 2 C.F.R §200.328 as well as any additional information your program officer may request. Further information will be provided to awardees at the time of the award.	Updated: 3/23/2016 Posted: 2/19/2016
4.	Who should the financial and technical reports be submitted to?	Submit all quarterly financial and technical reports to your assigned NIST federal program officer, grants specialist, and grants officer within 30 days from the end of the reporting period.	Posted: 2/19/2016
5.	What if we need an extension on the financial and technical reports?	Please provide sufficient justification for the reporting due date extension and expected due date to your assigned federal program officer and grants specialist.	Posted: 2/19/2016
6.	What about reporting requirements for sub-awardees?	All recipients are responsible for reporting sub-awards of $25,000 or more. Please refer to the federal funding opportunity Section VI.3.for more information.	Posted: 2/19/2016
7.	Do you allow no-cost extensions or budget revisions?	Yes, we allow both. Recipients may initiate a one-time extension of the expiration date of the award of up to 12 months, unless certain conditions apply. Send the request to both your federal program officer and grants specialist at least 10 days before the project end date. Budget revision information must be provided if there are any significant changes in the size or scope of the project or in originally negotiated total estimated costs.	Posted: 2/19/2016
8.	When do we have to request prior written approval from NIST for a budget revision?	Recipients must provide revised budget information to NIST if there are any significant changes in the size or scope of the project or in the originally negotiated total estimated costs for the project period. Within 30 calendar days, the request for budget revisions will be reviewed, and recipients will be notified if those revisions have been approved.	Posted: 2/19/2016
9.	What if the scope of work changes?	You must notify both the federal program office and grants office and receive prior approval if the scope or objective of the project or program changes, even if there is no budget revision requiring prior written approval.	Posted: 2/19/2016
10.	Who do we notify in the case of address and/or contact changes?	Notify your assigned grants specialist and federal program officer in writing.	Posted: 2/19/2016

| 11. | What are the audit requirements of this award? | Any non-Federal entity (i.e. states, local governments, non-profits) that expends Federal awards of $750,000 or more in the recipient's fiscal year will be required to conduct a single or program-specific audit.

Commercial organizations follow the DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, December 26, 2014 or special award conditions in the award package. NIST, the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General, or another Federal agency may conduct an audit of award at any time. | Posted: 2/19/2016 |

D. Records Retention

| 1. | How long must records be retained after the award has ended? | As outlined in 2 C.F.R. §200.333, financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records related to the award must be retained for a period of three years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report. | Posted: 2/19/2016 |

VIII. Other Information

1.	How can I keep up to date with the activities of the NNMI Program?	Please visit our website at www.manufacturing.gov, join our LinkedIn Group at https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6947787, follow us on Twitter @NNMIgov, and sign for updates https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNIST/subscribers/new	Posted: 2/19/2016
2.	Where can I get more information about what the government is doing in advanced manufacturing generally?	Please visit www.manufacturing.gov .	Posted: 2/19/2016
3.	May unsuccessful applicants request a debriefing?	Yes. Information on how to request a debriefing will be provided in NIST's response to your application.	Posted: 2/19/2016
4.	Will you send us copies of ALL presentations shared today?	The webcast recording and presentation slides from the March 8, 2016 NIST NNMI Proposers' Day conference is available on the competition webpage at http://www.nist.gov/amo/nnmi-proposers-day.cfm.	Posted: 3/23/2016
5.	Will you provide us an attendees/ registrants list with all of the pertinent info name, title, company, phone, e-mail, websites?	A list of attendees with contact information, who wished to be publicly disclosed, for the March 8, 2016 NIST NNMI Proposers' Day conference, is available on the competition webpage at http://www.nist.gov/amo/nnmi-proposers-day.cfm.	Posted: 3/23/2016
6.	As an Institute lead, what roles do you envision for NIST staff with the Institute?	The Institute will interact with both the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) and Grants Management Division (GMD) within NIST. The Institute will work on the programmatic and technical aspects with AMO. The Institute will work with GMD on the administrative requirements of the award.	Posted: 3/23/2016
7.	Must a for-profit applicant establish a not-for-profit entity to operate the Institute, and is that 501c(3) the ultimate primary awardee?	No. How the Institute is structured and operates optimally is the applicant's call.	Posted: 3/23/2016

8.	How is the cooperative agreement different from a grant?	Grants and Cooperative agreements are legal instruments used when the principal purpose of the award is to transfer a thing of value from the Federal Government, to an awardee to carry out a public purpose. However, a cooperative agreement includes substantial involvement by the Federal awarding agency (NIST). Substantial involvement includes collaboration, participation, or intervention by NIST in the management of the project. A grant does not provide substantial involvement between the Federal awarding agency.	Posted: 3/23/2016
9.	Does the Institute facility need to be one building or can it be a grouping of partners?	The NIST funding opportunity neither requires nor excludes the Institute from locating within a single building or a single location. Each applicant must determine for themselves what physical facility or facilities best meets the goal of the NNMI program and of an Institute. This includes how the Institute will strengthen and leverage the assets of a region, as described within the Pre-Application criterion 2.b. (pg. 38) and Full Application criterion 3.b (pg. 45) as it undertakes its technology transfer role(s).	Posted: 3/23/2016
10.	Please comment on the Pre-App panel. How will they evaluate a wide range of technologies?	NIST will utilize a diverse group of independent, objective Federal employees with relevant professional and technical expertise from both the private and public sectors, who are knowledgeable in the subject matter of the FFO. NIST will draw upon experts from across the federal network. In addition, the criteria used to evaluate applications are designed to be technology agnostic, thus allowing NIST to assess the merits of any application.	Posted: 3/23/2016
11.	How does the re-compete of the MEPs impact NNMI partnerships?	The re-compete of the MEP Centers should have minimal if any impact on the NNMI partnership. In August of 2014, the MEP Program Office initiate a complete re-competition of all MEP Centers. The re-competition was broken up into 4 phases, so as not to impact the whole system at once. Currently, the 3rd set of States are developing their proposals to be evaluated during the summer of 2016. The specifics of this re-competition are included within the MEP Re-competition FFO, and can be found at the following link … MEP Re-compete. The re-compete of the MEP Centers should provide minimal impact on the NNMI partnerships. If an incumbent MEP Center were to lose during the re-competition process, then it would be expected that the new MEP Center would become a partner/collaborator with the NNMI providing the same level of expertise regarding engaging the Small Manufacturing community.	Posted: 3/23/2016
12.	How does the potential new US Department of Labor Workforce legislation impact NNMI partnerships?	As stated in the FFO, "the Institutes are to prepare current and future workforces for the latest manufacturing methods and technologies." Also, "The Institutes engage with the broader community by hosting research internships and developmental assignments for individuals from industry, academia, and government to accelerate development of advanced manufacturing pre-competitive technologies and support the technical education and workforce development of the manufacturing community relevant to the Institute." The Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which was enacted by Congress, should be complimentary to the workforce efforts of the institutes. The legislations have some specific focus on 'industry sectors' and sector partnerships. Local and state systems must identify key industry clusters in their area/regions and develop plans specific to these markets. They are strongly encouraged to see out industry-based organizations as part of their partnerships, and of course, connect with the businesses. The legislation calls out examples of sector partnerships such as the MEP as resources to provide industry information, and opportunities to connect directly with the manufacturing community.	Posted: 3/23/2016
13.	Will the selected applicants invited for	Following the Pre-Application Phase, NIST will not be making public the name of those applicants which have been invited to submit a Full Application. NIST will not release the areas of focus that are included as part of the invited Full Application. However, we	Updated: 6/3/2016 Posted:

a full application be made public?	encourage all interested parties to join the NNMI LinkedIn group for possible networking/re-teaming opportunities.	3/23/2016

END