In recognition of manufacturing’s significant impact on the U.S. economy and its ability to spur innovation, in 2014 Congress passed the Revitalize American Manufacturing Innovation Act. The act established the multi-agency National Network for Manufacturing Innovation and a program at NIST to support it. The network consists of institutes whose goals include reducing the cost, time and risk of commercializing new technologies and improving existing technologies, processes and products. The institutes also support education, training and workforce recruitment. This coordinated effort can help to increase the benefits of manufacturing, which already returns $1.40 to the economy for every $1 invested.

What NNMI Does

The National Network for Manufacturing Innovation provides a manufacturing research infrastructure where U.S. industry and academia collaborate to solve industry-relevant problems. The NNMI is a network of institutes that each has a unique focus, but a common goal to create, showcase and deploy new capabilities and new manufacturing processes. At the institutes, industry, academia and government partners are leveraging existing resources, collaborating and co-investing to nurture manufacturing innovation and accelerate commercialization.
Recent Program Highlights

• Announced a Federal Funding Opportunity for up to two Department of Commerce Institutes for Manufacturing Innovation—the first NNMI solicitation to accept submissions on any topic. This format ensures that industry is involved in the identification of institute focus areas that are ready for private-sector investment.

• The NIST-hosted Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office put in place coordination mechanisms and tools to facilitate the sharing of best practices throughout the network. AMNPO also developed the NNMI Program Strategic Plan and the first NNMI Program Annual Report.

New for FY 2017

The request includes an additional $22 million to continue to support and grow the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation. NIST will establish additional Institutes for Manufacturing Innovation through open-topic competitions.

Program Goals

• Increase the competitiveness of United States manufacturing.

• Facilitate the transition of innovative technologies into scalable, cost-effective, and high-performing domestic manufacturing capabilities.

• Accelerate the development of an advanced manufacturing workforce.

• Support business models that help institutes to become stable and sustainable.

Budget

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