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Sent: Monday, September 19, 2011 3:29 PM
To: amtech
Subject: AMTech Comments

Please see the attached comments for Docket No.: 110620345-1331-02.

Thanks you,

Stephen Pritchett

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NIST AMTech RFI [Docket No: 110620345-1331-02]

1. Should AMTech consortia focus on developments within a single existing or prospective industry, or should its focus be on broader system developments that must be supplied by multiple industries?

Answer: The focus of the consortia should be geared toward all industry sectors that rely on Advanced Manufacturing Practices to create an end product or service. If you think about it, this applies to every industry sector.

2. Who should be eligible to participate as a member of an AMTech consortium? For example, U.S. companies. i.e., large, medium, and/or small; institutions of higher education; Federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; and non-profit organizations?

Answer: All listed above, diversity is the key to gaining the perspectives needed to succeed in this endeavor. There should be background checks and references reviewed though prior to consideration. Great ideas can come from some of the most unlikely sources.

3. Should AMTech place restrictions on or limit consortium membership?

Answer: Yes. Restrictions to those individuals of questionable character or business practices or convictions of crimes. Limits to terms may be considered after the first (10) years but the initial group needs to be in place to lay the ground work.

4. Who should be eligible to receive research funding from an AMTech consortium? For example, U.S. companies i.e., large, medium, and/or small; institutions of higher education; Federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; and non-profit organizations?

Answer: All of the above.

5. What criteria should be used in evaluating proposals for AMTech funding?

Answer: Financial history, proven track record, references, upfront evaluation of each request.

6. What types of activities are suitable for consortia funding?

Answer: Any activity geared toward improving the future workforce. Funding should start with the Middle and High Schools to introduce skilled labor back into the workforce.

7. Should conditions be placed on research awards to ensure funded activities are directed toward assisting manufacturing in the U.S.?

Answer: Most definitely, no funding should support work outside the U.S.

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8. What are ways to facilitate the involvement of small businesses in AMTech consortia?

Answer: Flow down to local Chamber of Commerce heads. I would not have known about AMP if I hadn't attended IMX in Las Vegas.

9. What are best practices for facilitating the widest dissemination and adoption of knowledge and technology through consortia?

Answer: One common website and flow down information via email and text.

10. While it is expected that the research efforts of AMTech consortia (including participants from the Federal, academic, and private industry sectors) will take place largely at the pre-competitive stage in the development of technologies, the generation of intellectual property is possible, and even likely. What types of intellectual property arrangements would promote active engagement of industry in consortia that include the funding of university-based research and ensure that consortia efforts are realized by U.S. manufacturers?

Answer: no answer

11. Would planning grants provide sufficient incentive for industry to develop roadmaps and initiate the formation of consortia? If not, what other incentives should be considered?

Answer: I believe so.

12. Should each member of an AMTech consortium be required to provide cost sharing? If so, what percentage of cost sharing should be provided?

Answer: 5-7%

13. What criteria should be used in evaluating research proposals submitted to an AMTech consortium?

Answer: no answer

14. What management models are best suited for industry-led consortia?

Answer: Objectives based, Six Sigma

15. Should the evaluation criteria include the assessment of leadership and managerial skills?

Answer: Yes

16. Should limitations be placed on the duration of consortia?

Answer: Yes

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17. How should an AMTech consortium's performance and impact be evaluated? What are appropriate measures of success?

Answer: Some sort of performance can be measured from results. Complicated.

18. What are the problems of measuring real-time performance of individual research awards issued by an industry-led consortium? What are appropriate measures of success?

Answer: No answer

19. How should the NIST AMTech program be evaluated?

Answer: Maybe by Baldrige?

20. What are lessons learned from other successful and unsuccessful industry-led consortia?

Answer: No answer

21. How can AMTech do the most with available resources? Are there approaches that will best leverage the Federal investment?

Answer: No answer

22. How should AMTech interact with other Federal programs or agencies?

Answer: No answer

23. What role can AMTech play in developing, leading, or leveraging consortia involving other Federal agencies?

Answer: No answer