

**From:** Byron Clayton [mailto:[bclayton@NorTech.org](mailto:bclayton@NorTech.org)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 01, 2011 11:58 AM  
**To:** amtech  
**Subject:** AMTech Comments

Please find attached a document with comments regarding the request for information for the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech).

---

Dr. Byron C. Clayton  
Vice President  
NorTech  
737 Bolivar Road, Ste 1000  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
Direct: 216-363-6895  
Mobile: 216-538-5720  
Email: [bclayton@nortech.org](mailto:bclayton@nortech.org)  
Website: [www.nortech.org](http://www.nortech.org)





Comments furnished by:

**NorTech**

737 Bolivar Road  
Suite 1000  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115  
[www.nortech.org](http://www.nortech.org)  
Byron Clayton  
[bclayton@nortech.org](mailto:bclayton@nortech.org)

**MAGNET**

1768 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114  
[www.magnetnetwork.org](http://www.magnetnetwork.org)  
Fatima Weathers  
[fatima.weathers@magnetnetwork.org](mailto:fatima.weathers@magnetnetwork.org)  
Edward Nolan  
[ed.nolan@magnetnetwork.org](mailto:ed.nolan@magnetnetwork.org)

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?

[Do not limit the focus.](#)

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?

[All of the above.](#)

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

[Yes, it should be limited to U.S. based companies.](#)

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?

[All of the above.](#)

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

[Viability of commercializing the platform technology using a U.S. based supply-chain.](#)

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

[Roadmap development; consortium development; market research; manufacturing equipment; laboratories; patent agreements and legal fees; prototyping.](#)



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

Yes.

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

Define a percentage of awards to be available only for small businesses.

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

Leverage existing networks & industry associations.

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?

IP agreements among the consortia members need to be in place using existing national models; agreements could include low cost license fees for consortia members.

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?

Yes.

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

Large firms should be required to contribute cash as cost share.

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

See above.

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

Overall project management should be led by the grantee with a single point of contact for each member of the consortia.

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

Yes, résumés and previous experience should be part of the evaluation criteria.



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

No.

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

Yes, meeting milestones as defined in the consortia's proposal.

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?

Sometimes results are not seen for years, therefore milestones need to be established and met.

19. How should the NIST AMTech program be evaluated?

Economic impact of the products; applications of the research; leveraging of research dollars.

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

The commercialization phase is almost always under-estimated (in terms of the time involved) and under-funded.

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

Make fewer and larger awards focused on planning grants.

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

Get more funding from other agencies.

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

Create larger pools of funding across agencies.