

From: angelo [mailto:angelo@picocal.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 1:50 PM
To: amtech
Subject: AMTech Comments

Dear all,

I have tried to address your questions from the perspective of a small business:

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?

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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?

U.S. companies; Federal agencies; and non-profit organizations should be eligible, with a special emphasis on small businesses. Small businesses can really focus their energies on one particular area. Institutions of higher education and others with very high overheads should be required to have an overhead of 50% or less so that the funds go to the research.

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

Only US companies should be allowed to participate and receive funding. Non-US companies should only be allowed as end-users but should not receive any financial assistance or access to free intellectual property. There should be a requirement for small business participation. Place restrictions on overhead by requiring a 50% of less.

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?

I think that small businesses should be eligible for grants without a matching component. Large and medium businesses should be required to match the funds received.

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

The criteria should be focused on market size and societal impact (in health, education etc.). Any products that come out of this funding should be manufactured in the

US.

There should be a requirement for small business participation.
Place restrictions on overhead by requiring a 50% of less.

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

Research and product development.

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

Yes, I think that any product that was a research outcome of tax payer funding should be manufactured in the US.

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

Make it a requirement for AMTech consortia to recruit small businesses.
At least 50% of the funds should be disbursed to small businesses.

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

Hold a yearly conference where members present their latest results.
Encourage publications and conference participation.

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?

The IP generated by universities, non-for-profits, and government entities should be freely available and open to all the members of the consortium.

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?

Planning grants should not be in place. Industry should have enough self interest to participate in setting roadmaps and initiate the formation of consortia. There should be research grants in place as incentives after the roadmap is developed.

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

I think that small businesses (or small businesses with less than 20 people) should be exempted from cost sharing. All others should be required to contribute dollar-for-dollar.

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

The criteria should be market size and societal impact.

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

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

This may apply only to large and medium size businesses.

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

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

There should be an evaluation. The evaluation should be based on whether the initial aims set by the roadmap were met.

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?

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19. How should the NIST AMTech program be evaluated?

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

Funds should be used only for the project that the members received money for. Several universities divert funding to other projects. There should be clear tracking of time spent on the funded project versus other projects.

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

Approaches include: cost sharing, frequent progress evaluation based on the stated aims.

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

AMTech can interact with other Federal programs through collaborative solicitations. For example via the SBIR program.

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

AMTech could leverage other Federal investments by providing access to federally funded facilities and equipment for the AMTech members. The access could be at a reduced cost or at no charge.

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