**PROJECT CALL Q&A**

**The following are questions that have been asked regarding the 2015 Project Call. The deadline to submit additional questions is April 3. All questions should direct questions to****John.Wilczynski@ncdmm.org****.**

**Q1 – Can you tell me the level of detail required for the 3/25/15 letter of intent submission?**

A1 – The “Lead Proposer” should submit an email to john.wilczynski@ncdmm.org and included the name of the lead organization and list the topic(s) the proposal team plans on addressing.

**Q2 – Is there a standard format for the 5/1/15 proposal submission?**

A2 – No, there is a not standard format or template to use when submitting a proposal.  There are required sections and page limits.

**Q3 – Based on the Roadmap Workshops late last year, I was expecting to see something specifically addressing printed electronics.  Is that still a focus area for AM?**

A3 – Printed electronics were definitely a focus during the workshops and are still of interest to the Institute for the current PC.  The workshops topics were used as thought starters where we attempted to focus the workshops around a specific material family.  One of the workshop goals was to drive or focus on end use applications.  The needs that were identified during the workshops were then compiled and affinitized into groups and aligned against the Roadmaps Critical Technology Elements.

**Q4 – We propose creating a team including 1-2 OEMs and 1-2 universities to integrate new manufacturing technologies (e.g. binder jetting, SLS). This includes implementing machine settings, machine code generation, in-browser manufacturing previews, and remote machine control. Our objective is the continued development of a unified platform that supports a wide variety of AM technologies and manufacturers.**

**Is this project in-scope for the Value Chain proposal?**

A4 – Yes, this fits into the value chain scope.  One of the main objectives of the value chain technical focus area is to integrate the design, material and process focus areas.

**Q5 – What is the project duration?**

A5 – 18 months is the max project duration.

**Q6 – Is a government agency eligible for funding?**

A6 – A government agency is eligible for funding IF they possess a UNIQUE capability.

**Q7 – Our investment in additive manufacture of customized medical devices is at the clinical point of care.  This would enable commercial devices to be designed around specifications for individual patients and produced in the health facility providing immediate clinical care while also meeting FDA acceptance criteria.**

**Is this topic within the scope of the February 27th Project Call?**

A7 – It sounds like it is a good fit.  However, without knowing your specific approach, I cannot say for sure.

Please review the members-only addendum to determine if what you are considering proposing meets the objectives of one or more of the critical technology elements.

**Q8 –I noticed that it states in the design section that what would be created is a "novel non-proprietary" solution. If we were to be awarded funds, would we have ownership over what was created or is it public?**

A8 – The IP that is generated would be yours, but we do have expectations related to our members’ access to the IP.  Depending on the membership level there are different levels of access.  And all members would be granted an R&D license.

**Q9 – It seems that you have an open call for project proposals for applied research. Unfortunately, I may be about a week late in this email as I have missed the kick-off webinar.**

**My question involves the eligibility for of lead proposers and the nature of America Makes memberships. In reviewing the list of members, I see a number of organizations with whom I have previously worked or collaborated. If an organization is a member, and the lead proposer is an employee of that organization, does that meet the eligibility criteria?**

A9 – The kickoff webinar is going to be posted to the America Makes website.  Sadly this is a member’s only video.  However, if you are working with a lead organization that is a member I am sure they can fill you in on the objectives of the project call.

If an organization is a member, then the employees of that company would be considered members.  Obviously, I would expect that the employee would submit the proposal on behalf of the member organization.

**Q10 – I wanted to confirm with you that for the current project call (proposals due May 1), only the lead proposer needs to be a member of America Makes.   The following statement appears near the end of the call:**

**“To be eligible for the America Makes Project Call, a lead proposer must be an America Makes member by the proposal submission deadline of Friday, May 1, 2015.”**

**I seem to recall that for other America Makes calls, there was a requirement for all members of the proposal team to be America Makes members.**

A10 – Only the lead proposer needs to be a member.  For some of the directed projects and special topics that we have posted in the past we required all team members to be America Makes members.

For this project call only the lead proposer needs to be a member.  Although we encourage all team members to consider membership.

**Q11 – The proposal call states "An e-mail notice of intent to submit from the lead proposer of the project team is requested no later than Wednesday, March 25, 2015".  Is this notice of intent to submit required or optional?  Also, is it possible to change the lead researcher after the intent to submit has been made but before the proposal is submitted?**

A11 – The letter of intent should include:

Lead proposer - meaning which organization, not individual.  We do not need to know what individual will be leading the research.

Proposal topic - which technology focus area(s) or critical technology element(s) will your proposal be addressing.

The letter of intent is optional but encouraged.

**Q12 – Can you please let know if my research team is unable to submit the letter of intent by March 25, can I still submit the full proposal on May 1?**

A12 – Yes you can.  If you think you are going to propose then please submit a letter of intent.

**Q13 – The PDF document for the recent America Makes project call references an “Addendum” that includes additional details on the technical topics. Could you please supply me with a copy of the addendum?**

A13 – It is available for download at

<https://americamakes.us/engage/opportunities/item/696-america-makes-announces-project-call>

Scroll down to the bottom and you can download it there.

**Q14 – Our university environmental engineering department has been organizing a team devoting on elucidating some critical AM-related environmental issues. When convenient, could you advise us whether America Works is interested in this type of effort or not per your latest Project Call? Does this research fit into the fourth category of Additive Manufacturing Value Chain?**

A14 – The fourth category of the project call is focused on value chain integration which includes a wide variety of topics.  Not knowing exactly what you’re considering proposing I cannot say for sure.  However education of AM-related issues is critically important to the Institute.

We are looking for teams to address the objectives and problem statements in the project call document.

**Q15 – Can a U.S. Gov't entity be a team member who contributes funds?**

A15 – Yes they can contribute funds but “federal funds” cannot count towards the 1:1 cost share requirement.  However, “state funds” can count towards the 1:1 cost share requirement.

**Q16 – Should a proposal address one of the 5 tech area or could be multiple area?**

A16 – A proposal can address one or more tech areas/critical technology elements.

**Q17 – ­If I am proposing a medical device project, is it alright to include animal experiments?­**

A17 – We do not have any restrictions on test requirements of restrictions as long as all federal and state laws and regulations are being followed.

**Q18 – ­Could AM Genome projects address technology at a lower TRL (3? 2?) than the other swimlanes?­**

A18 – We are only looking for proposals that fall into TRL 4-7 and are ready to transition out of the TRL 1-3 space.  We do understand that some technologies are on the borderline between TRL 3 and TRL 4.

**Q19 – ­Can unpaid overtime count towards cost share?­**

A19 - Unrecovered paid overtime is allowable for cost share.  Please reference the Department of Defense Grant Agreement Regulations 32.23 for specifics on cost sharing or matching.

**Q20 –­Are indirect costs allowable for cost share by either the prime contractor or the subcontractors?­**

A20 - Unrecovered indirect costs are allowable as cost share.  Please reference the Department of Defense Grant Agreement Regulations 32.23 for specifics on cost sharing or matching. However, indirect costs are not allowed as cost share if they are from a not-for-profit.

**Q21 – ­Can a U.S. Gov't entity be a team member who contributes funds?­**

A21 – Yes they can contribute funds but “federal funds” cannot count towards the 1:1 cost share requirement.  However, “state funds” can count towards the 1:1 cost share requirement.

**Q22 – It appears that our funding here at the Lab does not match what the call demands.   “Cost Share Requirement: This project requires a cost share of at least a 100% match of the government funding and must be from non-Federal funding sources with further cost share considered as an evaluation criterion.”  Funding at most all of the FFRDC Labs comes from the government.  In this case the money that would be applied from our end would be from a yearly line item we have through our DoD contract for advanced R&D.  Does this mean we can never participate?  Another issue is that our contract not prevents us from giving any particular for profit company an advantage by working with them (unless specifically directed by a sponsor) or the information is out in the open.  At America Makes it seems that the work that gets accomplished is only available to the member companies I think.  This may provide another obstacle to our participation, especially if we teamed with one or 2 companies.**

A22 - Yes they can contribute funds but “federal funds” cannot count towards the 1:1 cost share requirement.  However, “state funds” can count towards the 1:1 cost share requirement.

Per the America Makes Operating Plan…

8.4.3 National Laboratory (NL), Organic Facility (OF), and Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Membership

It is within the philosophy of NAMII to work collaboratively and synergistically with ongoing activities related to Additive Manufacturing at NLs, OFs, and FFRDCs. Organic facilities refer to organizations such as federal government laboratories, depots, readiness centers and other types of entities that are federal government resources. NLs, OFs, or FFRDCs may be awarded NAMII funding through a selected project provided that determinations are made in accordance with the language in the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) that:

“The sponsoring agency must first make a determination that the effort being proposed falls within the purpose, mission, general scope of effort, or special competency of the NL, OF, or FFRDC, and that the determination must be included in the project proposal. In addition, the non-sponsoring agency (in this case AFRL) must make a determination that the work proposed would not place the FFRDC in direct competition with domestic private industry.”

After these determinations are made, and a project with the organization is selected, then the NL, OF, or FFRDC may be able to receive NAMII funding for participation within a project.

NL, OF, and FFRDC organizations are precluded from some privileges, regardless of their membership status:

* + May not lead proposal teams, but may partner on proposals submitted by NAMII-member led teams
	+ May not participate on the NAMII EC, but may participate in the GB.

If a project team is selected and determinations of eligibility are made, then the NL, OF, or FFRDC will be considered a NAMII member after signing a membership agreement. A NL, OF, or FFRDC member will not be referred to as a Full, Lead or Supporting member; rather the terms “NL member, OF member, or FFRDC member” will be used. Benefits to NL, OF, and FFRDC members are at the full membership level.

Finally, if it is possible to directly apply FFRDC funds to a particular task then you would be able to share that information outside of America Makes.

**Q23 – The PDF document for the recent America Makes project call references an “Addendum” that includes additional details on the technical topics. Could you please supply me a with a copy of the addendum?**

A23 – <https://americamakes.us/engage/opportunities/item/696-america-makes-announces-project-call>

Scroll down to the bottom and you can download it there.