**M-TAC Federal Funding Opportunity**

**(Closes September 27, 2013)**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**(updated 9/24/13)**

1. **Can an applicant submit more than one application (as the lead organization)?**
	1. Yes, an applicant may submit more than one application for this federal funding opportunity.
2. **Can an applicant participate in more than one application?**
	1. Yes, an applicant may participate in more than one application submission for this federal funding opportunity.
3. **We are working on our M-TAC proposal and have several partner organizations, all of whom have differing indirect rates from our center. Can you provide any guidance on how we are required to model the overhead rates, or do we simply go with our centers rate as the submitter of the proposal?**
	1. As a starting point, a subrecipient may generally charge indirect costs to a subaward, provided such costs are in accordance with the subrecipient's approved indirect cost rate or otherwise allowable under the subaward based on the cost principles applicable to the subrecipient. It is the (prime) recipient's responsibility to ensure that all subaward costs, including any indirect costs under subawards, are being properly charged to the subaward. As a practical matter, to the extent that a subrecipient proposes indirect costs under a subaward, (prime) recipients often require the subrecipient to submit a copy of the subrecipient's approved indirect cost rate agreement as part of the subaward package. With respect to the (prime) recipient, subaward costs, including any indirect costs charged by a subrecipient, are generally reflected as direct costs on the (prime) recipient's overall project budget. Depending on the (prime) recipient's indirect cost base, a portion of the direct subaward costs may also be included in calculating the indirect cost recovery allowable to the (prime) recipient. See 15 C.F.R. §§14.20 - 14.27 and 15 C.F.R §§24.20-24.26 (as applicable), including the cross-references to the cost principles incorporated into such sections.
	2. A subawardee’s indirect costs are reflected as direct costs on the Prime applicant’s budget under either the subcontract line item or in the “other” cost category. The Prime should only reflect its own indirect costs in the indirect line of the SF-424A budget pages.
4. **While there are several advanced technologies, expected to significantly impact manufacturing, given the one-year timeframe of this initiative, our team decided to select one as our initial focus … specifically additive manufacturing. We selected this focus area based on:**
* **A preliminary evaluation regional manufacturers**
* **The anticipated national impact of additive manufacturing**
* **Our Consortium’s ability to leverage regional resources**

**However, I saw late last week that NIST just awarded $7.4 million to fund two research projects aimed at improving measurement and standards for additive manufacturing.**

**Our project will be totally different but I’m concerned that NIST won’t be at all interested in funding another Additive Mfging project. I realize you cannot give us a definitive yes or no but can you provide any guidance about whether we should proceed our switch our focus to a different advanced technology??**

* 1. The awards you mention were made through NIST’s Measurement Science for Advanced Manufacturing (MSAM) Cooperative Agreement Program.  Their focus will be on improving measurements and standards for the field of additive manufacturing.  NIST MEP has not been directly involved in this Program.  Our M-TAC pilot projects, as you point out, should have a different focus than these awards – one that is based on supply chain-focused, technology transition and commercialization services for small manufacturers.

 M-TAC pilot project proposals will be evaluated according to the Evaluation Criteria published in the FFO, and the evaluation process will include both a Merit Review and a Program Review.  The results of the review process will be forwarded to the Selecting Official for further consideration.  The Selecting Official will then select funding recipients based upon the rank order presented to him from the review process, and the selection factors listed in the M-TAC FFO.  The Selection Factors listed in the FFO do give some flexibility based upon the following:

* The availability of Federal funds.
* Whether the project duplicates other projects funded by the Department of Commerce (DoC) or by other Federal agencies.
* Diversity of geographic distribution of awardees, including MEP Center participation.
* Diversity of business models tested and deployed by awardees.
* Diversity of industry sectors and/or supply chains addressed by awardees.