

From: Rich Martukanitz [mailto:rxm44@arl.psu.edu]
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To: amtech
Subject: AMTech Program Comments

Firstly, NIST should be commended for proposing a program (the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortium) that appears to be the best example of developing a strategic vision for manufacturing in the United States. With this in mind, I have one comment which concerns the identification of industries and technologies that may benefit by the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortium (AMTech) Program.

Because of the importance of maximizing impact with limited resources that is present in today's environment, considerable thought should be placed on the topics, technologies, and industries that should be supported. Obviously, this was considered by NIST based on the desire for comments. However, the decisions that result from these comments should be supported by hard fact and metrics. Because of the importance in establishing these needs, I would propose a strategic summit, representing government, industry, and academia, to be used in identify critical industries and technologies which would initially guide the program [without being overly pessimistic, many of the roadmaps that I have seen state the obvious and lack sufficient detail for making critical decisions].

I would suggest criteria that must be met in defining the goals of the program be: potential growth of an industry sector over the next two decades, the national importance of these industries, the potential for these industries to build on the strengths of the nation, are there critical technologies that would have a disruptive influence for these industries, what are the competing industries and technologies that may impede the ability of the nation to grow and compete in these sectors, and what national strategy for these industries and/or technologies would the AMTech Program be augmenting.

The results of this summit and survey should provide enough detail to support the program's decisions. Not everyone will be satisfied with the decisions that result from this process; however, if the logic is sound, then the nation will understand [we've had enough programs that live on buzz words and politics]. We really need a comprehensive, logical strategy to carry manufacturing forward if we truly want to compete in manufacturing in the 21st Century.

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