

## **Competition #2 (2010-MEP-SDCC-01)**

## **Competition #3 (2010-MEP-BGDP-01)**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)**

### **Competition #2, 2010-MEP-SDCC-01 Questions:**

#### **1. Should proposals include a one year budget or a three year budget?**

Proposals should include at least a one-year proposed budget on SF-424A, Budget Information Non-Constructions. Applicants should indicate future year planned expenses for multiple year proposals. Applicants are encouraged to provide multiple year budget information on the SF-424A form.

Per Proposal Review Criteria 7, Financial Plan, of Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01, applicants should show the relevance and cost effectiveness of the financial plan for meeting the objectives of the project; the firmness and level of the applicant's total financial support for the project; and a plan to maintain the program after the cooperative agreement has expired. Factors that may be considered include: Reasonableness of the budget, both in income and expenses; strength of commitment and amount of the proposer's cost share, if any; effectiveness of management plans for control of budget; appropriateness of matching contributions; and plan for maintaining the program after the cooperative agreement has expired.

#### **2. If multi-state MEP proposals are awarded, will separate cooperative agreements be issued to each MEP?**

No, separate cooperative agreements will not be awarded. One cooperative agreement award will be made to a recipient. The recipient is the legal entity listed on the on the SF424 Application for Federal Assistance.

Each proposal selected and recommended for funding, upon successful negotiation, will receive a cooperative agreement award with NIST MEP. The cooperative agreement recipient will have a unique taxpayer identifying number In accordance with the provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 7701).

#### **3. Can a joint venture submit a proposal or only single entities with subcontractors submit proposals?**

Yes, if the legal entity is an eligible applicant a joint venture single non-profit organization may submit a proposal for Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01.

The recipient of the cooperative agreement will be the legal entity listed on the SF424 Application for Federal Assistance and will have a unique taxpayer identifying number In accordance with the provisions of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 7701).

**4. If a joint venture is allowed to submit a proposal – If one company does not receive federal funds for work performed does that effort count toward “cash” contributions or “In-kind” contribution?**

A final determination will be made for each specific proposal application submitted but all contributions, including cash and third party in-kind must meet all of the criteria within Section 14.23, Cost Sharing or Matching, of 15 CFR Part 14: Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit, And Commercial Organizations [<http://oam.ocs.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/15cfr14.pdf>].

**5. Does the MEP provider need to be the holder of the MEP Cooperative Agreement?**

No. Eligible applicants for Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01 may be nonprofit organizations including universities, community colleges, state governments, state technology programs and independent nonprofit organizations including existing MEP manufacturing extension centers. Organizations may submit multiple proposals under this solicitation for unique projects. A partnership with an existing MEP manufacturing extension center or centers is strongly encouraged.

**6. Can match include company/client funds?**

Yes, if these funds are in accordance with the applicable Federal cost principles or other terms and conditions contained in the cooperative agreement award.

Company or client funds are defined as program income. Per 15 CFR 24.25 (b), allowable cost share is defined as follows: (1) Dollar contributions from state, county, city, industrial, or other sources; (2) Revenue from licensing and royalties (Program Income); (3) Fees for services performed (Program Income); (4) [Third party] in-kind contributions of full-time personnel; (5) [Third party] in-kind contribution of part-time personnel, equipment, software, rental value of centrally located space (office and laboratory) and other related contributions up to a maximum of one-half of the host's annual share.

Cost share proposed must also meet the criteria within 15 CFR Part 14.23, Cost Sharing or Matching of the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with

Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit, And Commercial Organizations [<http://oam.ocs.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/15cfr14.pdf>].

**7. Can a partner be a for-profit company (as a supporter, not receiving funds)?**

Commercial organizations (for-profit companies) may be subcontractors to the recipient of the cooperative agreement for Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01.

**8. If we have companies that can benefit from the grant proposal (if funded), can we ask them for money to help meet some of the matching requirements?**

NIST MEP will award a cooperative agreement, not a grant, to accomplish the objectives of Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01.

All contributions, including cash and third party in-kind, shall be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria within 15 CFR Part 14.23, Cost Sharing or Matching of the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit, And Commercial Organizations [<http://oam.ocs.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/15cfr14.pdf>].

**9. What about if the third party contribution is in form of cash?**

All contributions, including cash and third party in-kind, shall be accepted as part of the recipient's cost sharing or matching when such contributions meet all of the criteria within 15 CFR Part 14.23, Cost Sharing or Matching of the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit, And Commercial Organizations [<http://oam.ocs.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/15cfr14.pdf>]. Per 15 CFR Part 14.2(g), "Cash contributions means the recipient's cash outlay, including the outlay of money contributed to the recipient by third parties."

**10. From the RFP: "Funding Availability: MEP anticipates awarding up to \$12,000,000 in fiscal year 2010 through multiple solicitations. The total amount funded under this solicitation will vary depending on the proposals received by MEP. The total amount awarded will not exceed \$12,000,000. Projects initiated under this solicitation may be carried out over a period of up to three years. When a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the DOC. If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds."**

- a. Does this actually mean there will be multiple awards (as opposed to multiple solicitations)? Isn't this RFP a solicitation? Will there be other RFPs for these funds?**

NIST MEP anticipates awarding up to \$12,000,000 across multiple Federal Funding Opportunities (FFO) using FY2010 appropriations. Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01 and Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-BGPD-01 will be funded using FY2010 NIST MEP funds.

The total amount funded under this solicitation (Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01) will vary depending on the proposals received by MEP. The total amount awarded between the two solicitations will not exceed \$12,000,000.

- b. Does the \$12 million ceiling apply to the full duration (up to three years) of the successful projects, or will there be \$12 million provided for the first year of the selected projects, with subsequent year funding dependent upon future appropriations? In other words, could NIST choose to fund projects totaling, say, \$25 million over three years – with \$12 million provided in the first year and the remainder subject to future funding availability?**

The \$12,000,000 refers to available NIST MEP FY2010 funding. Future year funding for the MEP program is subject to Congressional appropriations but NIST MEP anticipates continuing to fund projects supportive of the five MEP Strategic Growth Areas: supply chain, sustainability, technology acceleration, workforce and continuous improvement.

Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the US Department of Commerce (DOC). If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

- c. If \$12 million is awarded for just the first year of multiple-year projects, will recipients have to compete for subsequent-year funds with new proposals under another open solicitation?**

No. At the end of the initial performance period for the cooperative agreement, typically a 12-month period, the legal recipient will need to submit a continuation package for the subsequent year(s) contingent upon satisfactory progress and availability of funds.

**11. Can fees charged for services delivered under this competitive award be used as cost share?**

Yes, program income generated under a cooperative agreement for Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01 can be used as cost share on this specific cooperative agreement. The funds must comply with the applicable Federal cost principles or other terms and conditions contained in the cooperative agreement award.

Per the Hollings MEP General Terms and Conditions, Version 3.8, dated November 2009, Section 19A. "Program income earned during the project period shall be retained by the recipient and shall be used as follows in the order provided: First, to finance the minimum non-federal share of the project. Second, all program income earned in excess of that

required to meet the minimum non-federal share shall be added to the funds committed to the project by MEP and the Recipient and used to further eligible project objectives and activities if declared and explained within the Center's annual operating plan.

**12. Can program income generated by an MEP center on the regular MEP award be used as cost share on these competitive awards?**

No. Program income generated by an MEP center as a result of the MEP center operations cooperative agreement cannot be used as cost share on an award resulting from Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01 since they represent two different cooperative agreement awards, activities, and projects. Program income remains within the cooperative agreement award in which it is generated. 15 CFR 14.2(aa) states, "Program income means gross income earned by the recipient that is directly generated by a supported activity or earned as a result of the award."

**13. Is the funding applicant required to be a MEP? If not, does a 501 c 6 qualify to be the grantee . . . specifically, a Chamber of Commerce?**

No, cooperative agreements awards may be made to any eligible applicant of Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01, including universities, community colleges, state governments, state technology programs and independent nonprofit organizations (sometimes referred to as "501c3s" per Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code) including existing MEP manufacturing extension centers. Organizations may submit multiple proposals under this solicitation for unique projects. A partnership with an existing MEP manufacturing extension center or centers is strongly encouraged.

Yes, a "501c6" organization per Section 501c6 of the Internal Revenue Code is nonprofit organization and is an eligible applicant to Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01.

**14. Re: the cost share requirement; 25% is required to be cash; can the in-kind amount include salaries of the grant staff? What other expenses qualify for in-kind?**

No, "grant staff" or members of organizations that provide institutional support or that would be typically included as an indirect cost should not be proposed as in-kind expenses.

Per 15 CFR 290.4, allowable cost share is defined as follows: (1) Dollar contributions from state, county, city, industrial, or other sources; (2) Revenue from licensing and royalties (Program Income); (3) Fees for services performed (Program Income); (4) [Third party] in-kind contributions of full-time personnel; (5) [Third party] in-kind contribution of part-time personnel, equipment, software, rental value of centrally located space (office and laboratory) and other related contributions up to a maximum of one-half of the host's annual share.

Cost share proposed must also meet the criteria within 15 CFR Part 14.23, Cost Sharing or Matching of the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with

Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit, And Commercial Organizations [http://oam.ocs.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/15cfr14.pdf].

Per 15 CFR Part 14.2(n), "Third party in-kind contributions mean the value of non-cash contributions provided by non-Federal third parties. Third party in-kind contributions may be in the form of real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, and the value of goods, services and personnel directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project or program."

**15. On slide 15 at the bottom the section that covered "Existing or Previous MEP Centers and/or Partners". Can you further define this and what is expected?**

A list of existing MEP centers is located at <http://patapsco.nist.gov/mep/centers-near-you/index.htm> or at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/> and click on the map of the United States.

The MEP center partners are the organizations already working with existing MEP centers to achieve the MEP mission. Many partner organizations can be found on the websites of the individual MEP centers or by contacting the MEP Center.

**16. If there is a consortium of Centers will you be looking for information on each existing or previous MEP Center? Also, are you looking for information as detailed as MAIM metrics, etc.**

Yes, NIST MEP is asking for information on each existing or previous MEP Center proposed as part of a consortium of Centers.

No, do not provide standard NIST MEP information such as Client Impact Metrics or other NIST MEP reports. For the Federal Funding Opportunity, NIST MEP requested specific information that addresses whether the applicant's past performance with the program is indicative of expected performance and capability under a possible new award. Further, applicants should describe how and why performance is expected to be the same or different.

**17. Just for clarification: Are the five required forms in addition to or included in the 25 page count for the proposal?**

**Per the Federal Funding Opportunity for both competitions:**

A completed Standard Form 424 (Rev. 10-2005), 424A (Rev. 7-97), and 424B (Rev. 7-97) prescribed by the applicable OMB circular, Form CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Standard Form LLL (if applicable). **Note: The SF-424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and Form CD-511 will not be considered part of the page count of the proposal.**

**18. Just for clarification: Is the total funding amount of \$12M to fund proposals for just this year? If the proposal is a three year proposal, funding for the additional years will be from additional funds of money allocated? Should the project also be assumed that if it is a three**

**year proposal it will be resubmitted for funding (if available) based on performance of the proposal or will separate applications have to be submitted annually?**

The \$12,000,000 refers to available NIST MEP FY2010 funding. Future year funding for the MEP program is subject to Congressional appropriations but NIST MEP anticipates continuing to fund projects supportive of the five MEP Strategic Growth Areas: supply chain, sustainability, technology acceleration, workforce and continuous improvement.

As stated in the FFO, when a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the US Department of Commerce (DOC). If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

**19. May unused cost share from a current center base award be utilized as match for this Supplemental Funding? Or, will only the costs for the new project period and the proposed new program be qualified for match and reimbursement?**

No, unused cost share from a current center cooperative agreement **may not** used as cost share for this proposal.

Per 14 CFR 24.25 (b), allowable cost share is defined as follows: (1) Dollar contributions from state, county, city, industrial, or other sources; (2) Revenue from licensing and royalties (Program Income); (3) Fees for services performed (Program Income); (4) [Third party] in-kind contributions of full-time personnel; (5) [Third party] in-kind contribution of part-time personnel, equipment, software, rental value of centrally located space (office and laboratory) and other related contributions up to a maximum of one-half of the host's annual share.

Cost share proposed must also meet the criteria within 15 CFR Part 14.23, Cost Sharing or Matching of the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Non-Profit, And Commercial Organizations [<http://oam.ocs.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/15cfr14.pdf>].

### **Competition #3 Questions:**

1. The RFP states: “Funding Availability: The total amount awarded under this solicitation will not exceed \$3,500,000. Projects initiated under this category may be carried out over a period of up to three years. If NIST selects a proposal for a multi-year award, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the NIST. If NIST selects an application for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award.”

- a. How many awards are expected to be made under this solicitation?

Without reviewing the qualified proposals, it is difficult to predict the number of awards expected.

- b. Does the \$3.5 million ceiling apply to the full duration (up to three years) of the successful projects, or will there be \$3.5 million provided for the first year of the selected projects, with subsequent year funding dependent upon future appropriations? In other words, could NIST choose to fund projects totaling, say, \$10 million over three years – with \$3.5 million provided in the first year and the remainder subject to future funding availability? (Susan Tully, TMAC)

The total amount awarded under this solicitation will not exceed \$3,500,000. NIST MEP anticipates making project-based awards under Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-BGPD-01. Once awarded, the projects may be carried out over a period of up to three years.

- c. If \$3.5 million is awarded for just the first year of multiple-year projects, will recipients have to compete for subsequent-year funds with new proposals under an open solicitation?

No, the recipient will not have to compete for subsequent-year funding under an open solicitation.

Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the NIST. If NIST selects an application for funding, NIST has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

2. Can non-profits which are NOT MEP Centers be part of the project team for proposals submitted under this competition?

The legal entity awarded the cooperative agreement must be an existing MEP Center representing one MEP center or a Consortium of Centers for Federal Funding Opportunity



Number 2010-MEP-BGPD-01. An MEP Center or a Consortium of Centers may develop partnerships with non-profit organizations and commercial entities that support the Funding Opportunity Description (page 1) of FFO.

## **Competition #2 AND #3 Questions:**

### **1. Is there a page limit?**

Per the Federal Funding Opportunity for both Competitions:

The proposal must not exceed 25 typewritten pages in length for the basic proposal document; it may be accompanied by additional appendices of relevant supplementary attachments and tabular material. The proposal must contain both technical and cost information. The proposal page count shall include every page including pages that contain words, table of contents, executive summary, management information and qualifications, resumes, figures, tables, and pictures. All hard copy proposals shall be printed such that pages are single-sided, with no more than fifty-five (55) lines per page. Use 21.6 x 27.9 cm (8 ½" x 11") paper or A4 metric paper. Use an easy to read font of not more than about 5 characters per cm (fixed pitch font of 12 or fewer characters per inch or proportional font of point size 10 or larger). Smaller type may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible. Margins on all sides (top, bottom, left and right) must be at least 2.5 cm (1"). The applicant may submit a separately bound document of appendices containing other supporting information. The proposal should be self-contained and not rely on the appendices for meeting criteria. Basic proposal documents exceeding the 25 page requirement will not be reviewed.

### **2. Just to confirm, the required forms, 424, 424A, 424B, CD-511, and the SF-LLL are NOT included in the 25 page limit for the proposal?**

Per the Federal Funding Opportunity for both competitions:

A completed Standard Form 424 (Rev. 10-2005), 424A (Rev. 7-97), and 424B (Rev. 7-97) prescribed by the applicable OMB circular, Form CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying, and Standard Form LLL (if applicable). **Note: The SF-424, 424A, 424B, SF-LLL, and Form CD-511 will not be considered part of the page count of the proposal.**

### **3. May we submit the same proposal under both RFP's with minor changes and a modified budget?**

While proposal concepts may be appropriate and responsive to the requirements of both Federal Funding Opportunities, each applicant proposal submitted should be fully responsive to the specific Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO). FFO 2101-MEP-BGPD-01 and FFO 2101-MEP-SDCC-01 each have unique and specific requirements, applicant eligibility, evaluation criteria, and selection factors.

**4. Is there a cap on indirect cost?**

Further guidance regarding Indirect Costs is available at the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms And Conditions, Section A.05 Financial Requirements, Indirect Costs (pages 3-5) available at:

<http://oamweb.osec.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/DOC%20STCsMAR08Rev.pdf>.

Indirect costs will not be allowable charges against the award unless specifically included as a cost item in the approved budget incorporated into the award. Each award recipient must have established or establish an indirect cost rate with a Federal agency subject to the procedures in the applicable cost principles.

The NIST MEP proposal evaluation team for each Federal Funding Opportunity will compare the project activities and all costs, including indirect costs, proposed by the applicants assessing whether the cost and activities are reasonable to achieve the federal funding opportunity description and objectives. Applicants are encouraged to fully describe and explain the expenses included in the indirect costs proposed as well as the rationale for calculating the indirect costs.

**5. Is there a preferred submission? Paper v/s electronic?**

No, either hard copy or in electronic format proposals will be accepted per the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO). Proposals must comply with the directions provided in each specific FFO for submitting either paper or electronic proposals insuring applications are complete. Applicants must comply with all instructions, including the submission dates and times, for submitting hard copy or electronic proposal applications.

Please review the reminder contained in the FFO regarding proposal applications.

**Important:** All applicants, of both electronic and paper applications, should be aware that adequate time must be factored into applicant schedules for delivery of the application. Applicants submitting electronic proposals are advised that volume on Grants.gov is currently heavy, and if Grants.gov is unable to accept applications electronically in a timely fashion, applicants are encouraged to exercise their option to submit applications in paper format.

**6. My question is whether or not the eventual award winners of this proposal will have to transfer copyright ownership to the NIST MEP, or whether they would continue to be able to keep their copyright rights. We would certainly comply with providing ready access to these on-line tools to MEP Centers such that other Centers can market/sell and have their clients use these online tools.**

No, the US Department of Commerce will not require entities that are awarded cooperatives agreements resulting from Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-BGPD-01 to “transfer copyright ownership” of “copyright materials” to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program.

The Department Of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms And Conditions [<http://oamweb.ossec.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/DOC%20STCsMAR08Rev.pdf>] provides further information pertaining to recipient inventions and copyrights. With respect to copyrights, pages 24-25 of this document states that “The recipient may copyright any work produced under a DOC Federal financial assistance award **subject to DOC’s royalty-free nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish or otherwise use the work or authorize others to do so for Government purposes.**”

**7. Are these grants new competitions or is there an incumbent? If so who is the incumbent?**

Federal Funding Opportunities 2010-MEP-BGPD-01 and 2010-MEP-SDCC-01 are new competitions and there are no incumbents.

**8. If I propose multiple year delivery, is the funding in the outer years part of the grant award? or conditional on funding availability and appropriations?**

The \$12,000,000 refers to available NIST MEP FY2010 funding. Future year funding for the MEP program is subject to Congressional appropriations but NIST MEP anticipates continuing to fund projects supportive of the five MEP Strategic Growth Areas: supply chain, sustainability, technology acceleration, workforce and continuous improvement.

As stated in the FFO, when a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the US Department of Commerce (DOC). If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

**9. Can / will the government consider adding additional funding to projects that are successful?**

Proposals should include at least a one-year proposed budget on SF-424A, Budget Information Non-Constructions. Applicants should indicate future year planned expenses for multiple year proposals. Applicants are encouraged to provide multiple year budget information on the SF-424A form.

Per Proposal Review Criteria 7, Financial Plan, of Federal Funding Opportunity 2010-MEP-SDCC-01, applicants should show the relevance and cost effectiveness of the financial plan for meeting the objectives of the project; the firmness and level of the applicant's total financial support for the project; and a plan to maintain the program after the cooperative

agreement has expired. Factors that may be considered include: Reasonableness of the budget, both in income and expenses; strength of commitment and amount of the proposer's cost share, if any; effectiveness of management plans for control of budget; appropriateness of matching contributions; and plan for maintaining the program after the cooperative agreement has expired.

**10. When and where will questions and answers be posted?**

Frequently asked questions will be posted on the MEP public web-site, [www.nist.gov/mep](http://www.nist.gov/mep).

**11. Will the new funding be through a separate new award, or addendum to our base award which is being renewed?**

Each proposal selected and recommended for funding, upon successful negotiation, will receive a new cooperative agreement award with NIST MEP; not a grant.

**12. Will a 3-year proposal be approved, subject only to annual authorization review for:**  
**a. Satisfactory project performance results, and**  
**b. Availability of NIST/MEP funds**

The \$12,000,000 refers to available NIST MEP FY2010 funding. Future year funding for the MEP program is subject to Congressional appropriations but NIST MEP anticipates continuing to fund projects supportive of the five MEP Strategic Growth Areas: supply chain, sustainability, technology acceleration, workforce and continuous improvement.

As stated in the FFO, when a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the US Department of Commerce (DOC). If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

**13. Who approves the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year funding?**

As stated in the FFO, when a proposal for a multi-year award is approved, funding will generally be provided for only the first year of the program. Continuation of an award or extensions of the period of performance is at the total discretion of the US Department of Commerce (DOC). If an application is selected for funding, DOC has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award. Funding for each subsequent year of a multi-year proposal will be contingent upon satisfactory progress and the availability of funds.

**14. Will any sub-contracts be handled and subject to the current sub-recipient contracts rules and monitoring?**

Yes, per the MEP General Terms & Conditions, Section 11. Approvals; applies to all NIST MEP Cooperative Agreements. Please refer to the MEP public web-site to fully view this document. ([www.nist.gov/mep](http://www.nist.gov/mep))