

**From:** Steve Dickerson [mailto:steve.dickerson@camotion.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2011 12:33 PM  
**To:** amtech  
**Cc:** Lambis, Barbara  
**Subject:** Public Comments on the AMTech Program by Steve Dickerson

My fundamental comment is that this program should strive to make manufacturing in the US competitive as measured by the effect on balance of trade. One simply needs to look at importation of goods and the corresponding industries to see where emphasis might be placed. I think we are running in the 3 to 4% of GDP as an imbalance of trade. Two industries that are dominated by imports are garments and related sewn items; and assembled electronics such as cell phones, computers, TVs etc. BOTH imbalances should be possible to largely eliminate. Garments represents about \$100 billion per year.

It turns out that Georgia Tech and SoftWear Automation think that they know how to make garment manufacture competitive with low wage countries. But a good deal of R&D needed. We submitted a proposal to DARPA in June but haven't heard yet. Naturally I can furnish a copy of the proposal and would love to come to NIST to present material on this very important subject. By the way, it does turn out that fully automated sewing has been considered "impossible" but is not. A fundamental innovation has been made and preliminary research funded by both the State of GA and the Navy shows it probably is feasible to fully automate garment manufacture.

Let me comment on just a few of the questions.

1. Yes any consortia should focus on a single industry that is in need of greatly enhanced competitiveness.
- 5 and 7 and 13. A major criteria should be the importance in assisting manufacturing in the US as measured by effect on balance of trade and GDP.
10. I think the usual arrangement on intellectual property used with universities should be followed. That is the inventors get the patents to use unless needed for national security. A patent on sewing is in progress and close to issue. Owned by Georgia Tech.
- 17 and 18. A primary measure of success is the impact on GDP.

Thanks much,

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**From:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) [mailto:subscriptions@nist.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 26, 2011 10:29 AM  
**To:** Steve Dickerson  
**Subject:** NIST Extends Deadline for Public Comments on the AMTech Program

## NIST Extends Deadline for Public Comments on the AMTech Program

To accommodate additional interested parties, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced a 30-day extension on a request seeking public comment on the proposed new Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia (AMTech) program. The comment period now ends 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011. For more details see <http://www.nist.gov/director/amtech-092011.cfm>.

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NIST

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