

Dated: February 21, 2020.

James Maeder,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket Number: 200213-0056]

Request for Information Regarding Manufacturing USA Institutes and Processes

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for Information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The Manufacturing USA reauthorization prescribes three pathways for creating centers for manufacturing innovation or institutes in the Manufacturing USA network. Through this Request for Information (RFI), NIST is seeking comment from the public on the pathway where manufacturing centers outside of Manufacturing USA are recognized by the Secretary of Commerce as centers for manufacturing innovation in response to a formal request by the centers for such recognition. The law provides that a manufacturing center substantially similar to Manufacturing USA institutes, but which do not have federal sponsorship, may be recognized for participation in the network, but does not specify criteria for similarity. This pathway may be termed the “alliance” model for membership in Manufacturing USA. These could be existing agency-sponsored institutes which are no longer under a federal financial aid agreement or existing entities not in the network with relevant characteristics that are new to the network. Through this RFI, NIST also is seeking broad input and participation from stakeholders to assist in identifying and prioritizing issues and proposed solutions on the information provided regarding the proposed “alliance” path to designate a Manufacturing USA Institute, including what should be the minimum characteristics and requirements for such entities.

DATES: Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on August 25, 2020. Written comments in response to the RFI should be submitted according to the instructions in the **ADDRESSES** and **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** sections

below. Submissions received after that date may not be considered.

ADDRESSES:

For Comments:

Responses can be submitted by either of the following methods:

Website: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1NhLXHHHy-hnj9pxZ85MAMmTMxMxgGglc8LW6r7QWI55Xg/viewform>. Follow the instructions for sending comments on the agency website.

Email: manufacturingusa@nist.gov. Include “RFI Response: Manufacturing USA Institutes and Processes” in the subject line of the message.

Instructions: Attachments will be accepted in plain text, Microsoft Word, or Adobe PDF formats. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include copies or electronic links of the referenced materials.

All submissions, including attachments and other supporting materials, will become part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. NIST reserves the right to publish relevant comments publicly, unedited and in their entirety. Personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, or names of other individuals, should not be included. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Comments that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language or content will not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Margaret Phillips, Associate Director for Competitions, Office of Advanced Manufacturing, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive MS 4700, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, 301-975-4350, or by email to manufacturingusa@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Manufacturing USA was authorized by the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act in December 2014.¹ In 2019 the House Science Committee convened a hearing on Manufacturing USA, leading to the House passing the American Manufacturing Leadership Act. Concurrently the Senate developed and passed the Global Leadership in Manufacturing Act. Both of these bills were reconciled and included into the

¹ Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, Public Law 113-235, Title VII—Revitalize American Manufacturing Innovation Act of 2014, codified at 15 U.S.C. 278s.

National Defense Authorization Act, which was signed into law on December 20, 2019.² This Manufacturing USA reauthorization prescribes three pathways for creating centers for manufacturing innovation, or institutes in the Manufacturing USA network. The three pathways are:

(1) Institutes established pursuant to Federal law or executive actions which became members of the network,

(2) institutes created via competitions held by the Secretary of Commerce through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and

(3) manufacturing centers outside of Manufacturing USA but recognized by the Secretary of Commerce as centers for manufacturing innovation in response to a formal request by the centers for such recognition. “A manufacturing center that is substantially similar to those established under this subsection but does not receive financial assistance under subsection (d) may, upon request of the center, be recognized as a center for manufacturing innovation by the Secretary for purposes of participation in the Network”.

The third pathway may be termed the “alliance” model for membership in Manufacturing USA. These could be existing agency-sponsored institutes which are no longer under a federal financial aid agreement or existing entities not in the network with relevant characteristics that are new to the network. NIST is seeking broad input and participation from stakeholders to assist in identifying and prioritizing issues and proposed solutions on the information provided regarding the proposed “alliance” path to establish a Manufacturing USA Institute.

Anticipated Benefits and Impact of the “Alliance” Model

Benefits to the Joining Entities

Entities that seek to join Manufacturing USA through the “alliance” model stand to benefit in ways that are both tangible and intangible. Some of the key benefits are identified below.

- Formal recognition and “branding” with associated visibility as a national manufacturing innovation institute.
- Membership in a nationwide network of manufacturing innovation institutes with associated support.
 - Enhanced communication with leadership of the Manufacturing USA Institutes.

² National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Public Law 116-92, codified at 15 U.S.C. 278s, as amended.

○ Opportunities for synergistic collaboration with other institutes in the network.

○ Access to the shared network services offered by the National Program Office.³

• Eligibility for programmatic funding specifically for entities designated as Manufacturing USA Institutes which are not federally sponsored. Grants may be awarded on a competitive basis, subject to the availability of funds, for public service activities, such as workforce development, outreach to small- and medium-sized manufacturers, and other activities aligned with the mission of Manufacturing USA.

Benefits to the Manufacturing USA Program and Existing Institutes

The alliance model for new manufacturing innovation institutes and their induction into Manufacturing USA can facilitate expansion of the network, and technical areas not currently addressed by existing or pending Manufacturing USA Institutes can be established. In doing so, the federal government can significantly leverage its existing and future Manufacturing USA investments to spur the U.S. advanced manufacturing efforts already underway.

The extensive public and private sector inputs gathered by the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP) initiatives^{4,5} and by the five “Designing for Impact” regional workshops⁶ held around the country clearly indicate that several technology areas of importance to U.S. manufacturers remain to be addressed by Manufacturing USA. The alliance model can serve as a cost-effective pathway to rapidly expand technology coverage, geographical reach, and national impact of Manufacturing USA. It should however be noted that the “alliance” model is not intended to be a substitute for robust long-term federal support of Manufacturing USA.

Institutes in the network have the potential to improve the

³ The interagency Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO), which is headquartered at NIST, is tasked with the role of the National Program Office for Manufacturing USA.

⁴ *Report to the President on Capturing Domestic Competitive Advantage in Advanced Manufacturing*, Executive Office of the President, President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, July 2012.

⁵ *Report to the President on Accelerating U.S. Advanced Manufacturing*, Executive Office of the President, President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, October 2014.

⁶ *National Network for Manufacturing Innovation: A Preliminary Design*, Executive Office of the President, National Science and Technology Council, Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office, January 2013.

competitiveness of United States manufacturing, including in key advanced manufacturing technologies, and to accelerate non-Federal investment in advanced manufacturing production capacity in the United States.

Existing institutes in Manufacturing USA also stand to benefit from their association with the alliance members. Some of the key potential benefits to existing institutes that are already in the network are listed below.

• The new technology topics of the joining entities will enrich the network of institutes and will provide additional opportunities for the existing institutes to leverage complementary technical capabilities and services offered by the alliance members.

• Alliance members will have different operational and governance models. The existing and future Manufacturing USA Institutes, and their federal sponsor agencies, stand to benefit from the best practices gleaned from the different operational models adopted.

Proposed Process for Alliance Model Institutes

1. Information about the application process will be on the Manufacturing USA website.

2. Interested applicants can apply at any time.

3. Applications will be evaluated by a panel of Federal employees against evaluation criteria to be determined. If additional information is needed, it can be requested by the panel.

4. Applicants will be notified of the decision with regard to the review.

5. If an applicant is selected for as an alliance institute, a binding Memorandum of Understanding will be executed by the applicant and NIST. A template MOU will be made available on the website along with instructions.

6. The addition is announced and added to appropriate messaging as a network member.

7. An orientation to the network will be provided by Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office to each new member.

Request for Information

Respondents are encouraged—but are not required—to respond to each question and to present their answers after each question. The following questions cover the major areas about which NIST seeks comment. Respondents may organize their submissions in response to this RFI in any manner. Responses may include estimates, which should be identified as such.

All responses that comply with the requirements listed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of this RFI will be considered.

NIST is interested in receiving responses to the following questions from the stakeholder community:

1. Congress has defined specific goals and activities for federally sponsored Manufacturing USA Institutes. Which of these goals and activities should be minimal requirements for “alliance pathway” institutes?

2. Should all Manufacturing USA Institutes brought into the network under an “alliance pathway” follow the same process? If not, what should be the differences?

3. Who/what types of entities should be eligible to join the Manufacturing USA network using the “alliance pathway”?

4. What additional opportunities should be considered for a Manufacturing USA alliance institute? Technical projects? Education and workforce efforts? Others?

5. Should joining the Manufacturing USA network change any aspect of how a current organization operates?

6. What, if any, administrative, reporting, and meeting responsibilities should be required for the alliance institutes? For those responsibilities, what technical or other support should NIST provide to assist the alliance institutes?

7. Should institutes joining the Manufacturing USA network be able to accept projects or funding from foreign entities? If so, under what terms should foreign entities be able to participate?

8. If an existing organization becomes a member of Manufacturing USA via the “alliance pathway,” should that organization still be eligible to apply to be a fully funded institute under a competition sponsored by a federal agency?

9. How might the alliance pathway be structured to ease entry to the network by manufacturing centers that specifically address underrepresented technology areas of importance to U.S. manufacturers, or that increase the geographic reach and accessibility of the Network to underserved customers and communities?

10. What types of relationships should exist, or be required, between applicant entities and other federal manufacturing programs, such as NIST’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)?

11. Does the proposed process, as described in this notice, seem appropriate? Any suggestions for changes?

12. Applications will be evaluated by a panel using evaluation criteria that has yet to be determined. What are some relevant evaluation criteria for use in this process?

13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions related to this proposed approach?

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 278s, as amended.

Kevin A. Kimball,
Chief of Staff.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XT034]

Schedules for Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public workshops.

SUMMARY: Free Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held in April, May, and June of 2020. Certain fishermen and shark dealers are required to attend a workshop to meet regulatory requirements and to maintain valid permits. Specifically, the Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop is mandatory for all federally permitted Atlantic shark dealers. The Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop is mandatory for vessel owners and operators who use bottom longline, pelagic longline, or gillnet gear, and who have also been issued shark or swordfish limited access permits. Additional free workshops will be conducted during 2020 and will be announced in a future notice.

DATES: The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops will be held on April 2, May 7, and June 11, 2020. The Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held on April 1, April 3, May 1, May 4, June 1, and June 11, 2020. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for further details.

ADDRESSES: The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops will be held in Wilmington, NC; Bohemia, NY; and Manahawkin, NJ. The Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops will be held in Kitty Hawk, NC; Revere, MA; Key Largo, FL; Kenner, LA; Palm Coast, FL; and Ocean City, MD. See

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION for further details on workshop locations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Pearson by phone: (727) 824-5399.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The workshop schedules, registration information, and a list of frequently asked questions regarding the Atlantic Shark ID and Safe Handling, Release, and ID workshops are posted on the internet at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/atlantic-shark-identification-workshops> and <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/safe-handling-release-and-identification-workshops>.

Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops

Since January 1, 2008, Atlantic shark dealers have been prohibited from receiving, purchasing, trading, or bartering for Atlantic sharks unless a valid Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate is on the premises of each business listed under the shark dealer permit that first receives Atlantic sharks (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). Dealers who attend and successfully complete a workshop are issued a certificate for each place of business that is permitted to receive sharks. These certificate(s) are valid for 3 years. Thus, certificates that were initially issued in 2017 will be expiring in 2020. Approximately 169 free Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops have been conducted since April 2008.

Currently, permitted dealers may send a proxy to an Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop. However, if a dealer opts to send a proxy, the dealer must designate a proxy for each place of business covered by the dealer's permit which first receives Atlantic sharks. Only one certificate will be issued to each proxy. A proxy must be a person who is currently employed by a place of business covered by the dealer's permit; is a primary participant in the identification, weighing, and/or first receipt of fish as they are offloaded from a vessel; and who fills out dealer reports. Atlantic shark dealers are prohibited from renewing a Federal shark dealer permit unless a valid Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate for each business location that first receives Atlantic sharks has been submitted with the permit renewal application. Additionally, trucks or other conveyances that are extensions of a dealer's place of business must possess a copy of a valid dealer or proxy Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop certificate.

Workshop Dates, Times, and Locations

1. April 2, 2020, 12 p.m.–4 p.m., Hampton Inn, 124 Old Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403.

2. May 7, 2020, 12 p.m.–4 p.m., La Quinta Inn, 10 Aero Road, Bohemia, NY 11716.

3. June 11, 2020, 12 p.m.–4 p.m., Holiday Inn, 151 Route 72 West, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

Registration

To register for a scheduled Atlantic Shark Identification Workshop, please contact Eric Sander at ericssharkguide@yahoo.com or at (386) 852-8588. Pre-registration is highly recommended, but not required.

Registration Materials

To ensure that workshop certificates are linked to the correct permits, participants will need to bring the following specific items to the workshop:

- Atlantic shark dealer permit holders must bring proof that the attendee is an owner or agent of the business (such as articles of incorporation), a copy of the applicable permit, and proof of identification.
- Atlantic shark dealer proxies must bring documentation from the permitted dealer acknowledging that the proxy is attending the workshop on behalf of the permitted Atlantic shark dealer for a specific business location, a copy of the appropriate valid permit, and proof of identification.

Workshop Objectives

The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops are designed to reduce the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks reported in the dealer reporting form and increase the accuracy of species-specific dealer-reported information. Reducing the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks will improve quota monitoring and the data used in stock assessments. These workshops will train shark dealer permit holders or their proxies to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses.

Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops

Since January 1, 2007, shark limited-access and swordfish limited-access permit holders who fish with longline or gillnet gear have been required to submit a copy of their Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshop certificate in order to renew either permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). These certificate(s) are valid for 3 years. Certificates issued in 2017 will be expiring in 2020. As such, vessel