

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 14, 2006

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TWC Announces a \$3 Million Grant Opportunity For the Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing Cluster Initiative

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in conjunction with the Office of the Governor, announced a \$3 million grant opportunity for the Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing Cluster as part of the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* initiative. Workforce development is a key component of Gov. Rick Perry's economic development strategy for Texas.

Six industry cluster teams performed statewide assessments that yielded specific recommendations for business growth, including the development of a skilled-workforce pipeline to meet technology-based industry demand. To answer this need, the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* grants seek to develop market-driven education and training opportunities that will provide a skilled-workforce pipeline to meet the short- or long-term needs of the target industries. The grants also will promote the development of individuals at various skill levels by providing the training they need to upgrade their skills and pursue careers in the industry cluster occupations.

The six primary industry clusters that form the Cluster Initiative are:

- Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing
- Aerospace and Defense
- Biotechnology and Life Science
- Information and Computer Technology
- Petroleum Refining and Chemical Products
- Energy

TWC supports aligning regional workforce with economic development and education to meet industry needs and create opportunities for Texans. To further this goal, Gov. Perry, through TWC, invites interested parties across Texas to submit proposals for the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* grants.

TWC will seek proposals for projects over the next four years. With this second industry cluster proposal being solicited for the Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing Cluster, TWC will fund as many high-quality proposals as possible with the \$3 million in funds available. Proposals must be received no later than **July, 14, 2006**. The proposed contract period for the one-time grant awarded under this Request For Proposal (RFP) will be for a two-year period commencing on the contract target start date of **August 25, 2006**. These grants are an example of Texas leveraging federal Workforce Investment Act funds to further develop a world-class workforce.

For more information on the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* RFP, visit the Texas Building and Procurement Commission Electronic State Business Daily Web site at: <http://www.tbpc.state.tx.us/>.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

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