

From: "Amis, Eric J UTRC" <AmisEJ@utrc.utc.com>

To: nnmi_comments <nnmi_comments@nist.gov>

Cc:

Date: Wed, 30 May 2012 02:23:21 -0400

Subject: NNMI Partnership Comments

Find below comments regarding the proposed NNMI program from the perspective of the corporate research organization of a broad based technology driven manufacturing company.

Academic and industrial research investments in the U.S. have resulted in extremely successful advances to develop new materials, discoveries that are rapidly translated into inventions, and engineering to integrate these materials and discoveries into superior product designs. In many cases there have not been equivalent advances in manufacturing technologies, or in the development of the required workforce infrastructure, with the result that the products are less viable for domestic production. Lagging investments in manufacturing technology and training are well documented.

It is also clear that neither educational institutions nor industry can address this challenge in isolation. The proposed NNMI public-private partnerships represent a well-founded investment to generate innovation across various levels of the manufacturing supply chain, which will team with educational institutions that also reach across different levels. As the institutes develop, the impact should be particularly effective to raise the viability and performance of small and medium sized domestic suppliers. Furthermore, the focus on technology readiness levels 4 to 7 for both training and technology development will facilitate sustainability and independence after the initial Federal investment.

Eric J. Amis

Director, Physical Sciences

United Technologies Research Center

Office: [860-610-7661](tel:860-610-7661) AmisEJ@utrc.utc.com