

From: Brad Kinsey <brad.kinsey@unh.edu>  
To: nnmi\_comments <nnmi\_comments@nist.gov>  
Cc:  
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Subject: NNMI Comments

I have two comments regarding the NNMI initiative:

- 1) Pre-proposals should be used for the competition. This would be beneficial for both sides, the program office will have fewer full proposals to review and the proposing institutes will not devote significant resources if their concept/organization is not strong.
- 2) Funds should be used to strengthen the Manufacturing Extension Partnership offices as these will be essential for small and medium sized companies to benefit from the NNMI. My experience with SMEs is that they are hesitant to work with the local universities, let alone an institute on the other side of the country. The MEPs can bridge this gap, but only if they are well equipped to do so.

Let me know if you have any questions regarding these comments.

Brad Kinsey

Mechanical Engineering

University of New Hampshire

[1-603-862-1811](tel:1-603-862-1811)