

Project Call Frequently Asked Questions

Q1 – If I get support from a materials company, must all of the work be publishable? I understand that the purpose is to support the America Makes community, but could some of the work remain proprietary (or would the proprietary part need to be funded separately)?

A1 – If the work is based on Background Developed IP then that portion of the work stays with that organization, but if the work is developed within the project as Consortium Developed IP then the work must be shared with the membership.

Q2 – Who owns IP that is produced as a result of this work (including matching funds from a commercial company)? If IP is owned by America Makes, is there a requirement that IP be licensed to members, and if so, what are the terms?

A2 – The IP is owned by the organization that developed the IP, however that IP is subject to the rules outlined in the membership agreement.

Q3 – If equipment is purchased as part of this AM Project, can it be used for other work, as long as the project milestones are not disrupted?

A3 – YES.

Q4 – When submitting detailed proposals, will the approaches remain confidential, so as to not jeopardize future patent applications?

A4 – YES. The proposals will only be reviewed by the evaluation team and each team member signs a confidentiality agreement.

Q5 – Can you please tell me if a National Lab or DOD research laboratory (for instance, could the ORNL, US ARL or US ARDEC be team members?) will be allowed to participate on project teams for the current call?

A5 – Per the America Makes Operating Plan...

8.4.3 National Laboratory (NL), Organic Facility (OF), and Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) Membership

It is within the philosophy of AMERICA MAKES to work collaboratively and synergistically with ongoing activities related to Additive Manufacturing at NLS, OFs, and FFRDCs. Organic facilities refer to organizations such as federal government laboratories, depots, readiness centers and other types of entities that are federal government resources. NLS, OFs, or FFRDCs may be awarded AMERICA MAKES funding through a selected project provided that determinations are made in accordance with the language in the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) that:

“The sponsoring agency must first make a determination that the effort being proposed falls within the purpose, mission, general scope of effort, or special competency of the NL, OF, or FFRDC, and that the determination must be included in the project proposal. In addition, the non-sponsoring agency (in this case AFRL) must make a determination

that the work proposed would not place the FFRDC in direct competition with domestic private industry.”

After these determinations are made, and a project with the organization is selected, then the NL, OF, or FFRDC may be able to receive AMERICA MAKES funding for participation within a project.

NL, OF, and FFRDC organizations are precluded from some privileges, regardless of their membership status:

- May not lead proposal teams, but may partner on proposals submitted by AMERICA MAKES-member led teams
- May not participate on the AMERICA MAKES EC, but may participate in the GB.

If a project team is selected and determinations of eligibility are made, then the NL, OF, or FFRDC will be considered a AMERICA MAKES member after signing a membership agreement. A NL, OF, or FFRDC member will not be referred to as a Full, Lead or Supporting member; rather the terms “NL member, OF member, or FFRDC member” will be used. Benefits to NL, OF, and FFRDC members are at the full membership level.

Finally, if it is possible to directly apply FFRDC funds to a particular task then you would be able to share that information outside of America Makes.

Q6 – When submitting the project concepts for Phase 1, should we only submit the Project Concept Tool Excel workbook?

A6 – Yes you only need to submit the Project Concept Workbook.

Q7 – Can members submit multiple concepts?

A7 – YES.

Q8 – We wish to seek for collaboration if we are eligible under your project scheme.

A8 – Anyone is able to participate in the project call process provided they meet the guidelines posted in the call and the proposed technology matches the project call description. Further rules on who can lead and who can participate in the project call can be found in the RFP.

Q9 – What level of detail needs to be provided when someone is declaring background IP?

A9 – The owning organization should list anything that they are leveraging that is not going to be made available to the membership at the completion of the project. This could be a patent number or a description of the background IP that is being leveraged.

Q10 – Can a U.S. Government entity be a team member who contributes funds?

A10 – Yes, they can contribute funds but “federal funds” cannot count towards the cost share requirement. However, “STATE FUNDS” can count towards the cost share requirement.

Q11 – Please clarify a quick question regarding the information that needs to be submitted in the project call concept submission (Phase I)? Does Phase I require commitment information from all team members in letter forms to be included in the submission, or will we have time to finalize the team until the final submission in Phase II?

A11 – No, for the first phase it is not required that all team members be identified and committed. Additional team members can be identified and included on the team if the Project Concept team is asked to submit a Project Proposal.

Q12 – Must the project concept details include any information regarding the estimated cost for the effort? If so, please elaborate.

A12 – NO. The only requirement is that you fill out all of the boxes on the Project Concept Tool one of which includes a ROM cost.

Q17 – Will the project concepts be protected as confidential information such that their contents will not be disclosed to other America Makes Members or organizations outside of the NCDMM proposal review panel?

A17 – YES. The Project Concepts will only be shared with the evaluation team and will not be shared with membership.

Q18 – Is it an issue if we decide to as a team to change the Lead on the project prior to submitting the proposal?

A18 – No, America Makes has no issues with a lead change prior to submitting the proposal.

Q19 – Are teams allowed to add team members to the project after Phase 1?

A19 – Yes, project team members can be added until the proposal is submitted for review.

Q20 – Do planned publications include video?

A21 – Yes, video can be included in the description of a planned publication.

Q22 – Can participation in America Makes required reporting events (e.g. quarterly meetings / semi-annual evets) be counted in the cost share?

A22 – The labor and travel costs associated with PRMM, TRX, project meetings can be counted towards Cost Share.

Q23 – What information does the proposer need to send to America Makes for sub-recipients? Does the proposer need to send the sub-recipients spreadsheets and budget justifications?

A23 – The lead proposer needs to provide a cost proposal which includes the budget spreadsheet. Within the exhibit the funding and cost share associated with each sub-recipient should be documented. It is not required that sub-recipient agreements be submitted with the proposal however we strongly encourage the lead proposer reviews

the sub-recipient agreement and flow-down clauses with each sub-recipient in order to assure that if selected the project participants will agree to the terms and conditions.

Q24 – Does this submission require the proposer and each sub-recipient to complete the AMERICA MAKES, America Makes Cost Sharing Form which we have submitted in previous submissions?

A24 – There is not a cost share form included in the proposal submission. However, each team member should be included within the cost proposal and the cost exhibit which captures the funding and cost share as proposed by each team member.

Q25 – When working with team members that don't have approved accounting systems can they still participate in cost share?

A25 – Yes, the CA allows for awarding of non-flexibility priced (fixed price) sub-agreements for those that do not have an approved accounting system.