

May 15, 2015

Invitation to Flexible-Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Innovation Institute - Industry Information Session, May 18th

Dear Advanced Manufacturing Working Group member –

In the interest of sharing information, please find below an invitation from the University of Massachusetts Amherst for an event on Monday regarding the Flexible-Hybrid Electronic Manufacturing Innovation Institute proposal as part of President Obama's National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). The Department of Defense announced the funding opportunity for the FHE MII in February 2015, and UMass Amherst, along with MIT, UMass Lowell, Harvard, and Northeastern University, have partnered to lead the New England node of the application. If the group's application is successful, the hub would be based in Silicon Valley, California, home to the FlexTech Alliance.

This is a great opportunity for New England businesses, higher education institutions, and others to be collaboratively involved in an NNMI center through UMass Amherst's New England node. While the Council continues to support an NNMI hub based in New England, the presence of federal dollars and matching funds for the FHE MII would have the potential to continue improving our region's competitive advantage in a variety of advanced manufacturing sectors.

The invitation from UMass Amherst follows:

Flexible-Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Innovation Institute - Industry Information Session, May 18th

We are reaching out to you regarding an information session being organized for the Massachusetts node being coordinated with the FlexTech Alliance as part of the FHE MII proposal. The Flexible-Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Innovation Institute Funding Opportunity Announcement was released by the U.S. Department of Defense (Air Force Research Laboratory) in February, 2015. It is a federal competition for a cooperative industry-university-government research institute called the Flexible Hybrid Electronics Manufacturing Innovation Institute (FHE-MII). The Federal government will award \$75M to one winning team, preferably an established, non-university, non-profit organization. Matching funds from non-federal sources at least equal to the \$75M federal award are required. This sets the minimum total program funding at \$150M. The institute is expected to be self-sustaining after the initial five years. Based on our discussions with FlexTech Alliance we have been structuring a high impact node concept wherein activities at several state institutions (UMass Amherst, MIT, Northeastern, UMass Lowell, and Harvard) are coordinated to provide a broader impact to the Institute or Hub and a focused Center of Excellence activity for the region, and further providing incentives through matching by the Commonwealth for state-based industry involvement.

The information session will be held Monday, May 18, 2015 from 12-4pm at the Northeastern University Kostas Research Institute in Burlington, MA. Lunch will be provided. We will plan to provide both dial in and web conference links for participants that are unable to attend in person, and will distribute presentation materials to participants. Please RSVP or send questions to jdmorse@research.umass.edu . The location for the event is

FlexTech-led FHE-MII Industry Partner Information Session: MA Node
Northeastern University Burlington Campus
Kostas Research Center
145 South Bedford St.
Burlington, MA 01803
May 18, 2015 12-4pm

and directions to the event can be found
at <http://www.northeastern.edu/kostas/contact/>

I am looking forwards to discussing this opportunity with you.

Best regards,

Jeff Morse
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