

To Whom It May Concern-

Please find the attached Request for Proposals for the U.S. Department of Defense Materials Science and Manufacturing Research Grant procured through the efforts of Manufacturing 21. These are Federal funds allocated to support the growth of manufacturing companies that supply products to the United States military.

The parameters for the use of these funds include:

- Grants of \$20,000-\$50,000 allocated to defense industry manufacturing consortiums
- Funding training that will increase competitiveness through workforce development in a wide geographic area
  
- Eligible applicants: companies and/or training providers that meet qualifications
- Qualifications:
  - Participating employers must make and sell a product or component whose ultimate end user is the US military
  - Companies submitting proposals must bid as part of a consortium or industry association
  - Training providers submitting proposals must have letters of commitment from qualified companies

The selection process will use the following guidelines:

- Selection Committee members will consist of a combination of industry, education and workforce development
- Evaluation Criteria: proposals will be judged on the following merits:
- Number of companies and employees benefitting from the training
  - Sustainability of the project post-grant-**25 points**
  - Amount of matching funds and in-kind contributions by participating companies and training providers-**25 points**
  - Potential of proposed training to create new jobs and/or promotions, and increase company productivity/competitiveness-**25 points**
  - Overall benefit to the U.S. defense logistics supply chain-**25 points**

Proposals will be accepted on an on-going basis until the funds are expended. The funding period will end in August 2009. Additional pages can be attached to RFP as necessary, with a maximum total of five pages per proposal. If you have previously submitted a proposal that you feel addresses all the fields of the RFP it is not necessary to resubmit.

Information about the grant, including updates, will be available at [www.worksystems.org](http://www.worksystems.org). Inquiries, concerns and suggestions, as well as electronic proposals can be directed to [DoD@worksystems.org](mailto:DoD@worksystems.org). Hard copy proposals can be sent to:

DoD Grant

c/o Worksystems, Inc.

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