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Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, Inc.

2015 Manufacturing Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) Summary

Background

The Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), a publically supported manufacturing research and development institution invites small- and mid-sized manufacturers (SMMs), including startups, to submit proposals requesting technical assistance from CCAT.

Assistance will be provided by seasoned industry experts able to identify, test, and implement solutions that meet a critical need or solve a pressing problem for a company. Particular emphasis will be placed on how the company's request supports manufacturing operations in Connecticut including retention of revenue, jobs or company growth. While firms from any industry sector may apply, the requested project must relate to manufacturing operations.

An award will be provided on behalf of the winning companies to CCAT's Advanced Manufacturing Center to fund the companies' ability to access specialized resources not typically attainable for small- and mid-sized manufacturers (SMMs) with less than 100 employees. Ideal projects will seek to solve manufacturing problems impacting a participating company's success utilizing technology solutions or will support a company's ability to begin the manufacturing of new products or services.

Program Details

1. CCAT will solicit applications from:
 - a. established firms or startups manufacturing a new product base
 - b. existing firms seeking solutions to pressing technical problems

2. Applications are due by noon December 31st, 2014. Selections will be made and all funding allocated to projects by January 19th, 2015. Projects are expected to start by February 2015 and be substantially completed in 6 months.
3. It is expected that multiple projects will be funded.
4. Value may be up to \$75K per project.
5. CCAT will execute NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) if required.
6. CCAT will convene a review team to evaluate proposals submitted.
7. CCAT's proposal evaluation & selection criteria includes:
 - a. Eligibility of company (manufacturer with less than 100 employees and be in good standing with the State)
 - b. Company's plan to manage project with discrete milestones
 - c. Assessment of the proposed manufacturing problem and related technologies
 - d. Company's commitment of a cash and/or in-kind match
 - e. Specifics on how the project can benefit the company, impediments to conducting the work in house and details on the specific expertise and equipment they think may be needed
 - f. Proposed budget and expected outcomes
 - g. Overall quality of the proposal
 - h. The ability to work collaboratively with industry experts in a productive fashion
 - i. The project's potential for an improvement that will provide a sustainable competitive advantage
8. CCAT will seek to assist SMMs with the application of advanced technologies for existing process improvement and manufacturing process development. It will apply the resources of its Advanced Manufacturing Center to the selected projects and provide SMMs with on-site support for technology transition when applicable.

9. CCAT specific project areas will include:
 - a. Machining process improvements
 - b. Optimized tool paths for simultaneous 5-axis machining
 - c. Inspection process improvements
 - d. Reverse engineering geometry to create a solid model
 - e. Prototype development
 - f. Additive manufacturing applications (3D printing plastics and metals).

Contact information

Please contact CCAT directly for information on how resources of its Advanced Manufacturing Center may assist your company. (Bob Torrani, rtorrani@ccat.us).