

NOTICE OF INTENT

FEDERAL AGENCY NAME: Air Force Research Laboratory

ANNOUNCEMENT TITLE: Synthetic Biology (SynBio) Manufacturing Innovation Institute (MII)

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: This is a Notice of Intent

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: FA8650-20-S-5028

1. General Intent. The purpose of this Notice of Intent is to announce the U.S. Government's intent to launch a competition for the ninth Manufacturing Innovation Institute (MII) led by the Department of Defense (DoD). The technical focus area for this Institute will be Synthetic Biology. Funding will be commensurate with the other DoD MIIs with similar expectations for cost-share from non-Federal sources of 1:1 or greater. DoD expects to release the formal solicitation in late February 2020. Proposer's Days will follow release of the formal solicitation around mid to late March 2020. The exact date and location will be confirmed in the solicitation release.

Synthetic Biology (SynBio) promises to deliver a new class of manufacturing that will provide the United States with domestic capabilities to manufacture critical resources, providing supply chain security. SynBio manufacturing also has the potential to create entirely new classes of products with defense applications, such as chemicals and materials with advanced properties that could be used in austere environments. The combination of defense priorities addressable by SynBio manufacturing and the commercial potential of these innovations in food, agriculture, fuel, pharmaceuticals, and other consumer products, will create new opportunities for U.S. manufacturers.

The DoD has launched and continued strategic partnerships with eight manufacturing innovation institutes: America Makes, Manufacturing x Digital (MxD), Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow (LIFT), American Institute for Manufacturing (AIM) Integrated Photonics, NextFlex, Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA), BioFabUSA, and Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM). These Institutes are expected to bring together industry, universities and community colleges, federal agencies, and the states to accelerate innovation by investing in industrially-focused and national security-related manufacturing technologies. These efforts should bridge the gap between basic research and product development, provide shared assets to help companies access cutting-edge capabilities and equipment, and create an unparalleled environment to educate and train students and workers in advanced manufacturing skills. Each Institute serves as a central point of manufacturing excellence, providing the innovation infrastructure to support regional manufacturing hubs and ensuring that our manufacturing sector is a key pillar in a sustainable economy.

This MII will foster an end-to-end 'ecosystem' in the U.S. for Synthetic Biology including cohesive scale-up manufacturing and downstream processing capabilities, integrated test & evaluation capacity, and data operationalized for design for manufacturing, all coupled with workforce development and a focus on ethics and biosecurity. The MII should encourage government,

industry and academia to come together with the goal of organizing the currently fragmented U.S. capabilities in synthetic biology and better position the U.S. relative to global competition. The Synthetic Biology MII will also enable universities and small to medium enterprises to participate in and benefit from the MII's manufacturing advances. The MII will need to be structured to address both DoD and commercial applications, with a focus on maturing the technology from TRL 4 to 7.

If there are any questions, please direct them to:

MARY A. SHARITS, Contracting Officer/Grants & Agreements Officer
AFRL/RXKMC
2130 8th STREET
WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB, OH 45433-7541
MARY.SHARITS@US.AF.MIL
Phone: (937) 713-9898

2. **DISCLAIMER**: This Notice of Intent does not constitute a solicitation. Any resulting procurement will address the specific solicitation requirements as defined by the Government.

**THIS IS NOT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS.
DO NOT SUBMIT PROPOSALS AT THIS TIME.
ANY PROPOSALS RECEIVED WILL BE DISCARDED.**