

MFI – Application for Cost Share on Extramural Sponsored Research Proposals

I. Program Details and Considerations

MFI will be accepting applications on a rolling-basis to support cost share in conjunction with extramural sponsored research proposals, as detailed below. Research projects funded by this MFI internal proposal process will be used to fulfill a portion of cost share requirements for external proposals that have REQUIRED cost share and that fall within the scope of MFI (i.e., involve advanced manufacturing research). The goal of this program is to support proposals that are demonstrably competitive for external funding opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

MFI project funding is not intended to be the sole source of cost share on proposals. Investigators should interact with their department head(s) and dean(s) to request cost share in the form of tuition, faculty effort, equipment usage fees, or other appropriate mechanisms. MFI funds may then augment these traditional cost share sources and enhance the proposal's competitiveness.

MFI reserves the right to award less than the requested amount of cost share for any given application.

MFI strives also to provide support to projects through making introductions between investigators and relevant industry partners that may be interested in providing cost share used toward federal funding applications, such as through the Manufacturing USA institutes.

II. Submissions

When an external call for proposals is identified that requires support in the form of cost share, investigators should apply using this internal proposal application as soon as possible. ***In order to be reviewed, internal proposals should be submitted a minimum of two (2) weeks before the deadline of the external proposal.*** MFI reserves the right to decline proposals submitted with less than two weeks to the proposal deadline. *From a budgetary standpoint, please inform us of your plans to submit as early as possible so that we can work to best support your proposal.*

Cost share requests must follow the considerations and qualifications as referenced in the "MFI – Cost Share Overview and Guidelines" document.

Applications for cost share must include:

- MFI cost share summary and impact statement: no more than 1 page in length describing the specific research impact and significance of the MFI funding
 - Include emphasis on key criteria described in Section III
- A complete draft of the full extramural sponsored research proposal (recognizing that the proposal will evolve prior to submission)
- The URL for the extramural call for proposals that the investigator will be submitting to
- A draft extramural sponsored research proposal budget including all other cost share sources (e.g., departmental or college cost share)

Applications can be submitted online: <https://form.jotform.com/80154145486154>

III. Selection Criteria

Applications that include the key criteria listed below are of specific interest for funding.

- Cost share is required by sponsored research funding agency/organization
- Proposal alignment to MFI scope of advanced manufacturing research, with additional considerations:
 - Clear fit with the mission and research pillars of MFI
 - Research projects previously funded by MFI can be viewed <https://engineering.cmu.edu/mfi/research/index.html> at the MFI website Research page.
 - Approaches for accelerating research to commercialization
 - Social and economic impact
 - Greater Pittsburgh region impact
 - Potential for future research at Mill 19 at Hazelwood Green facility
- Overall technical quality and competitiveness of proposal
- Impact and significance of MFI cost share on competitiveness of the proposal
- Presence of departmental and/or college cost share
- Presence of industry partners bringing cost share