

and renovate its building stock to reduce related carbon emissions to levels that are consistent with combating global warming.

“(5) Many companies involved in construction are small, without access to innovative manufacturing techniques, and could benefit from the type of training and business analysis activities that the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership routinely provides to the Nation’s manufacturers and their supply chains.

“(6) Broadening the competitiveness grant program under [former] section 25(f) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act ([former] 15 U.S.C. 278k(f), now see 15 U.S.C. 278k-1) could help develop and diffuse knowledge necessary to capture a large portion of the estimated \$100 billion or more in energy savings if buildings in the United States met the level and quality of energy efficiency now found in buildings in certain other countries.

“(7) It is therefore in the national interest to expand the capabilities of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership to be supportive of the construction and green energy industries.”

AGREEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR COLLECTIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Pub. L. 108-7, div. B, title II, Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 73, provided in part: “That hereafter the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to enter into agreements with one or more nonprofit organizations for the purpose of carrying out collective research and development initiatives pertaining to [former] 15 U.S.C. 278k paragraph (a), and is authorized to seek and accept contributions from public and private sources to support these efforts as necessary.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation act:

Pub. L. 107-77, title II, Nov. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 774.

ADDITIONAL RENEWAL OF FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CENTERS

Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(b) [title II], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-50, 2681-83, which provided that Federal financial assistance awarded by the Secretary of Commerce to a Regional Center for the Transfer of Manufacturing Technology could continue beyond six years and could be renewed for additional periods, not to exceed one year, at a rate not to exceed one-third of the Center’s total annual costs or the level of funding in the sixth year, whichever was less, subject before any such renewal to a positive evaluation of the Center and to a finding by the Secretary of Commerce that continuation of Federal funding to the Center was in the best interest of the Regional Centers for the Transfer of Manufacturing Technology Program, was from the Departments of Commerce Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, and was not repeated in subsequent appropriations Acts. Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 105-119, title II, Nov. 26, 1997, 111 Stat. 2476.

Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title I, §101(a) [title II], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009, 3009-36.

Pub. L. 103-317, title II, Aug. 26, 1994, 108 Stat. 1741.

PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER

Pub. L. 100-519, title I, §102(d), Oct. 24, 1988, 102 Stat. 2590, provided that the requirement of former subsec. (c)(2) of this section was met by the publication made by the National Bureau of Standards on July 18, 1988, at 53 F.R. 27060.

§ 278k-1. Competitive awards program

(a) Establishment

The Director shall establish within the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership under section 278k of this title and section 278l of this title a program of competitive awards

among participants described in subsection (b) of this section for the purposes described in subsection (c).

(b) Participants

Participants receiving awards under this section shall be Centers, or a consortium of Centers.

(c) Purpose, themes, and reimbursement

(1) Purpose

The purpose of the program established under subsection (a) is to add capabilities to the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, including the development of projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems as determined by the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the MEP Advisory Board, other Federal agencies, and small and medium-sized manufacturers.

(2) Themes

The Director may identify 1 or more themes for a competition carried out under this section, which may vary from year to year, as the Director considers appropriate after assessing the needs of United States manufacturers and the success of previous competitions.

(3) Reimbursement

Centers may be reimbursed for costs incurred by the Centers under this section.

(d) Applications

Applications for awards under this section shall be submitted in such manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Director shall require in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board.

(e) Selection

(1) Peer review and competitively awarded

The Director shall ensure that awards under this section are peer reviewed and competitively awarded.

(2) Geographic diversity

The Director shall endeavor to have broad geographic diversity among selected proposals.

(3) Criteria

The Director shall select applications to receive awards that the Director determines will achieve 1 or more of the following:

(A) Improve the competitiveness of industries in the region in which the Center or Centers are located.

(B) Create jobs or train newly hired employees.

(C) Promote the transfer and commercialization of research and technology from institutions of higher education, national laboratories or other federally funded research programs, and nonprofit research institutes.

(D) Recruit a diverse manufacturing workforce, including through outreach to underrepresented populations, including individuals identified in section 1885a or section 1885b of title 42.

(E) Such other result as the Director determines will advance the objective set forth

in section 278k(c) of this title or in section 278l of this title.

(f) Program Contribution

Recipients of awards under this section shall not be required to provide a matching contribution.

(g) Global marketplace projects

In making an award under this section, the Director, in consultation with the MEP Advisory Board and the Secretary, may take into consideration whether an application has significant potential for enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium-sized United States manufacturers in the global marketplace.

(h) Duration

The duration of an award under this section shall be for not more than 3 years.

(i) Definitions

The terms used in this section have the meanings given the terms in section 278k of this title.

(Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 872, §25A, as added Pub. L. 114-329, title V, §501(c), Jan. 6, 2017, 130 Stat. 3031; amended Pub. L. 117-167, div. B, title II, §10252(c), Aug. 9, 2022, 136 Stat. 1499.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 278k(f) of this title, prior to the general amendment of section 278k by Pub. L. 114-329.

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 117-167 inserted “United States” before “manufacturers”.

§ 278k-2. Expansion awards pilot program

(a) Definitions

The terms used in this section have the meanings given the terms in section 278k of this title.

(b) Establishment

The Director shall establish, subject to the availability of appropriations, as a part of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership under sections 278k and 278k-1 of this title, a pilot program of expansion awards among participants described in subsection (c) for the purposes described in subsection (e).

(c) Participants

Participants receiving awards under this section shall be Centers, or a consortium of Centers (as such term is defined in section 278k of this title).

(d) Award amounts

Subject to the availability of appropriations, an award for a recipient under this section shall be in an amount equal to the sum of the following:

(1) Such amount as the Director considers appropriate as a minimum base funding level for each award under this section.

(2) Such additional amount as the Director considers in proportion to the manufacturing density of the region of the recipient.

(3) Such supplemental amounts as the Director considers appropriate.

(e) Purpose of awards

An award under this section shall be made for one or more of the following purposes:

(1) To provide worker education, training, development, and entrepreneurship training and to connect individuals or business with such services offered in their community, which may include employee ownership and workforce training, including connecting manufacturers with career and technical education entities, institutions of higher education (including community colleges), workforce development boards, labor organizations, and non-profit job training providers to develop and support training and job placement services, including apprenticeship and online learning platforms, for new and incumbent workers, programming to prevent job losses when adopting new technologies and processes, and development of employee ownership practices.

(2) To provide services to improve the resiliency of domestic supply chains.

(3) To mitigate vulnerabilities to cyberattacks, including helping to offset the cost of cybersecurity projects for small manufacturers.

(4) To expand advanced technology services to United States-based small- and medium-sized manufacturers, which may include—

(A) developing technology demonstration laboratories;

(B) training and demonstration in areas of supply chain and critical technology needs, including a focus on the demonstration of technologies developed by companies based in the United States;

(C) services for the adoption of advanced technologies, including smart manufacturing technologies and practices; and

(D) establishing partnerships, for the development, demonstration, and deployment of advanced technologies, with—

(i) national laboratories (as defined in section 15801 of title 42);

(ii) Federal laboratories;

(iii) Manufacturing USA institutes (as described in section 278s(d) of this title); and

(iv) institutions of higher education.

(5) To build capabilities across the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership for domestic supply chain resiliency and optimization, including—

(A) assessment of domestic manufacturing capabilities, expanded capacity for researching and deploying information on supply chain risk, hidden costs of reliance on off-shore suppliers, redesigning products and processes to encourage reshoring, and other relevant topics; and

(B) expanded services to provide industry-wide support that assists United States manufacturers with reshoring manufacturing to strengthen the resiliency of domestic supply chains, including in critical technology areas and foundational manufacturing capabilities that are key to domestic manufacturing competitiveness and resiliency, including forming, casting, machining, joining, surface treatment, tooling, and metal or chemical refining.