



Grant Solicitation for CHIPS Capital Grant Program
Solicitation No. 2023-JAII-02

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
75 North Drive
Westborough, MA 01581-3340
<http://www.masstech.org>

Procurement Team Leader:	Pat Larkin
Date Issued:	May 3, 2023
Amended:	May 4, 2023
Questions Due:	Accepted on a rolling basis
Answers to Questions Posted:	Posted on a rolling basis
Responses Due:	September 30, 2024
	By 3:00PM EST

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is issuing this CHIPS Capital Grant Program Solicitation (Solicitation No. 2023-JAII-02) for companies that are applying to the United States Department of Commerce CHIPS for America Notice of Funding Opportunities, and are seeking a state capital grant award as part of the offer of a qualified covered state incentive that must be included in an application for federal funding. Funding for state CHIPS capital grant awards will be made available through annual bond allocations given to MassTech.

Any company interested in applying for a CHIPS Capital Grant from MassTech is required to submit an application in accordance with the guidelines set forth in section 3 below, which will be evaluated pursuant to the evaluation criteria set forth in this solicitation.

All companies or consortia interested in pursuing other forms of “qualified covered state incentives” such as workforce training support are required to file a separate intake application through the [MA Covered State Incentives Program, a “concierge program” created to help applicants navigate the various state incentives](#). Applicants may be eligible for more than one qualified covered state incentive.

1.2 MassTech Collaborative

The MassTech Collaborative is an independent public instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with a mission to strengthen the competitiveness of the tech and innovation economy by driving strategic investments, partnerships, and insights that harness the talent of Massachusetts. As a unique public agency, MassTech supports business formation and growth in the state’s technology sector, helping Massachusetts lead in the global digital economy.

MassTech is working with the Executive Office of Economic Development as the Commonwealth’s lead agency to organize and integrate incentive commitments from contributing state agencies as well as managing a capital grant program in support of CHIPS for America Funding applicants. MassTech’s Innovation Institute and Center for Advanced Manufacturing, two of the organization’s five divisions, lead both the concierge program across agencies as well as this CHIPS Capital Grant Program.

For additional information about MassTech Collaborative and its programs and initiatives, please visit our website at www.masstech.org.

2. The Grant

2.1 Grant Overview

As part of the CHIPS and Science Act, signed by the President in August 2022, the United States Department of Commerce was appropriated \$39B to be used for microelectronics manufacturing incentives. Through that legislation, the U.S. Department of Commerce was authorized to deploy an additional \$11B towards microelectronics research and development (“R&D”) efforts. To administer these funds, the DOC created [CHIPS for America offices within the National Institute for Standards and Technology](#) in September 2022.

On February 28, 2023, the CHIPS for America Office released the first program tied to the \$39B manufacturing incentives fund, along with release of the timeline and vision for the current NOFO, as well

as forthcoming NOFOs, for manufacturing incentives and R&D incentives (see: [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(“NOFO”\): Commercial Fabrication Facilities.](#)) The CHIPS for America funding opportunities require that an applicant be offered a qualified covered incentive, which must be included as part of a company’s application for federal funding.

The Mass Technology Collaborative, in close partnership with the Executive Office of Economic Development, is issuing this solicitation in order to help Massachusetts-based companies achieve their goals of securing federal CHIPS funding from the Department of Commerce as part of their plans in order to expand manufacturing in the Commonwealth while supporting the federal economic and national security objectives.

Massachusetts company-led projects that support new or expanded capability or capacity of microelectronics production, lifecycle processes such as packaging, test and integration, supply chain (e.g. materials) and equipment producers, and that meet other eligibility requirements set forth below will be considered through this solicitation. Desired outcomes from MassTech CHIPS Capital Grant Program investments include:

- increased customer base or revenue for companies through increased production volume or new products and services;
- growth in economic opportunity across all regions of the Commonwealth;
- expanded and equitable employment of diverse talent and workforce;
- deeper connections and collaborations with talent, education, and skills partners;
- establishment of more resilient and interconnected regional supply chains that include MA-based small/medium manufacturers;
- leveraging, or strengthening, the existing research, technology development, and innovation ecosystem through partnerships; and,
- helping to create more sustainable manufacturing processes to reduce environmental impact.

2.2 Grant Requirements and Guidance

This solicitation is intended to provide capital grant support for Massachusetts companies that are awarded funding through a federal USDOC CHIPS for America NOFO. Successful applicants with the MassTech CHIPS Capital Grant Program will be provided a letter of support which will express MassTech’s commitment to provide capital grant funding if the company successfully receives a CHIPS for America federal grant award. The amount of the MassTech CHIPS Capital Grant award will be made in an amount up to -- but it will not exceed -- the amount of the direct funding support (i.e. grant support, not federal loan support) awarded by the federal funding agency. All MassTech CHIPS Capital Grant Awards are contingent upon a federal award from the CHIPS for America program.

A contingent award offered by MassTech under this CHIPS Capital Grant Program will be included in the formal individual award letter the state provides a company summarizing all of the offered covered state incentives that will be part of the company’s federal application.

All applicants who successfully receive a federal award will be required to provide MassTech a copy of their federal proposal no more than 10 days following receipt of a federal award letter. Applicants are allowed to redact confidential information from the copy of the federal proposal that is made available to MassTech. Once proof of federal funding is obtained, MassTech will work with Applicants to finalize an agreement and enter into a contract for the funds that are committed through this solicitation in alignment with the federal award amount unless otherwise specified.

Provision of grant funds is specifically contingent upon satisfaction of the following conditions: (i) completion of all required MassTech Collaborative internal approvals; (ii) MassTech's receipt of written notice of a federal award from the USDOC CHIPS for America program along with a copy of the federal proposal and executed contract (when available); (iii) review of detailed capital budget and scope of work for the portion of the proposed project to be funded by the CHIPS Capital Grant; (iv) execution of grant agreement between MassTech Collaborative and the awardee; and, (v) the availability of funds from the Commonwealth's capital budget.

Use of Proceeds

The grant funds to be provided by MassTech Collaborative must be used for funding capital projects that are an integral part of the overall project or initiative being undertaken by the applicant included in the CHIPS for America proposal. Any capital expenditures to be funded by the MassTech Collaborative under this program must be ones that will be accounted for by the recipient in its financial records as a capital expenditure under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"). Funds awarded through this solicitation CANNOT be used for ongoing business operations such as payroll, benefits, buying of inventory, and general working capital. All equipment or other capital items procured under this program must remain in the state and be used for the funded purpose for the useful life of the equipment.

Information Needed to Determine Eligibility

The grant funds to be provided by the state will have different eligibility requirements depending on the source of funding. In order to determine whether an Applicant is eligible for funding, the application must include the following information:

- A list of all partners, specifying the type of organization they represent. This may include institutes of higher education, including state and municipal colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations and other public or quasi-public entities, etc. Applicants are encouraged to include an institute of higher education as part of their application.
- The location of Applicant's headquarters, and/or a description of Applicant's Massachusetts presence if not headquartered here (R&D, manufacturing operations, etc.). Please note, an Applicant must have, or plan to have, significant manufacturing or research and development operations in Massachusetts.
- Whether the project is in alignment with a Manufacturing USA Institute (if applicable).
- A list of all matching funds that will be contributed to the project and the related source of the match.

2.3 Evaluation Criteria

Funding decisions will take into account the anticipated impact the project will have on the economy in Massachusetts. All applications will be evaluated against the qualifications, capacity, and experience of the proposed project team as well as the project's demonstrated potential for success in each of the following evaluation categories:

a) Responsiveness to Federal Solicitation

Is the proposal responsive to the requirements of the federal government? What is the competitive positioning of the proposal for a federal award?

b) Impact on the Massachusetts Economy

What impact will the project have on expanded and equitable employment in Massachusetts? How will the project increase customer base or revenues for the company through increased production volume or new products and services? What will be the company's impact on the growth of an industry sector in Massachusetts?

c) Resiliency

Is the company, or the project, able to contribute toward more resilient and interconnected regional supply chains – including Mass-based small/medium sized manufacturers?

d) Contributions to the Ecosystem

Will the project or company contribute toward growth and economic opportunity across other regions of the Commonwealth? What are the company's contributions to growing and supporting diverse talent and workforce across the talent pipeline? Is there any training support in the project?

e) Viability of the Firm Making Application

What is the competitive standing of your company? Where is your growth coming from? How does this award contribute toward that growth?

f) Manufacturing Sustainability

Does the project help create more sustainable manufacturing processes to reduce environmental impact of existing and/or new processes or facilities?

The MassTech Collaborative reserves the right to consider such other relevant factors as it deems appropriate for advancing other public purpose benefits.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Application and Submission Instructions

Respondents are advised to read this Solicitation carefully and to conform to its requirements. Failure to comply with the requirements of this Solicitation may serve as grounds for rejection of an Application.

- a. Applications will be accepted by MassTech on a rolling basis through September 30, 2024.
- b. All Applications must be submitted no less than 30 days prior to when the CHIPS for America NOFO application is submitted. All Applications must be submitted electronically.
- c. All Applications will be reviewed by an internal review committee and an opportunity may be provided for applicants to be interviewed by representatives of the funding agency. Applicants should be prepared to discuss all aspects of their proposal.
- d. Required Submissions- All Applications must include the items listed below:
 - Application Cover Sheet (Attachment A)
 - Application

- Completed budget ([Attachment C](#)) for the overall project, including the portions of the project not funded by the MassTech Collaborative, but specifying which capital expenditures are proposed to be funded by the MassTech Collaborative
 - Copy of submitted statement of interest in response to the USDOC NOFO
 - Authorized Application Signature and Acceptance Form ([Attachment B](#)), which contains specified certifications by Respondent. **Please read the certifications carefully before signing.**
 - Exceptions to the *Research and Development Matching Grant Agreement and Statement of Work*, located at [HERE](#) , if any.
- e. Applications **must** be delivered as follows:
- proposals@masstech.org (please include the Solicitation number in the subject heading).
- f. Any and all responses, Applications, data, materials, information and documentation submitted to MassTech Collaborative in response to this Solicitation shall become MassTech Collaborative’s property and shall be subject to public disclosure. As a public entity, the MassTech Collaborative is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (set forth at Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 66). There are very limited and narrow exceptions to disclosure under the Public Records Law. If a Respondent wishes to have the MassTech Collaborative treat certain information or documentation as confidential, the Respondent must submit a written request to the MassTech Collaborative’s General Counsel’s office no later five (5) business days prior to submitting an Application. The request must precisely identify the information and/or documentation that is the subject of the request and provide a detailed explanation supporting the application of the statutory exemption(s) from the public records cited by the Respondent. The General Counsel will issue a written determination within three (3) business days of receipt of the written request. If the General Counsel approves the request, the Respondent shall clearly label the relevant information and/or documentation as “**CONFIDENTIAL**” in the Application and **shall only include the confidential material in the hard copy of the Application**. Any statements in an Application reserving any confidentiality or privacy rights that is inconsistent with these requirements and procedures will be disregarded.
- g. Applicants that receive a contingent award from MassTech Collaborative under this solicitation and who successfully receive a federal award will be required to provide MassTech a copy of their federal proposal no more than 10 days following receipt of a federal award letter. Applicants are allowed to redact confidential information from the copy of the federal proposal that is made available to MassTech.

3.2 Application Timeframe

The application process will proceed according to the following schedule. The target dates are subject to change. Therefore, Respondents are encouraged to check MassTech Collaborative’s website frequently for updates to the schedule.

Task	Date:
Solicitation Released	May 3, 2023
Amended	May 4, 2023
Questions Due	Accepted on a rolling basis
Question and Answer File Posted	Posted on a rolling basis
Applications Due	September 30, 2024 @ 3 PM EST

3.3 Questions

Questions regarding this Solicitation must be submitted by electronic mail to proposals@masstech.org with the following Subject Line: "Questions – Solicitation No. 2023-JAII-02". All questions must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST on . Responses to all questions received will be posted on or before 5:00 p.m. on to MassTech Collaborative website.

4.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS

4.1 General Information

- a) If an Application fails to meet any material terms, conditions, requirements or procedures, it may be deemed unresponsive and disqualified. The MassTech Collaborative reserves the right to waive omissions or irregularities that it determines to be not material.
- b) This Solicitation, as may be amended from time to time by MassTech Collaborative, does not commit MassTech Collaborative to select any organization(s), award any grant funds pursuant to this Solicitation, or pay any costs incurred in responding to this Solicitation. MassTech Collaborative reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to withdraw the Solicitation, to engage in preliminary discussions with prospective Respondents, to accept or reject any or all Applications received, to request supplemental or clarifying information, to negotiate with any or all qualified Respondents, and to request modifications to Applications in accordance with negotiations.
- c) On matters related solely to this Solicitation that arise prior to an award decision by the MassTech Collaborative, Respondents shall limit communications with the MassTech Collaborative to the Procurement Team Leader and such other individuals as the MassTech Collaborative may designate from time to time. No other MassTech Collaborative employee or representative is authorized to provide any information or respond to any questions or inquiries concerning this Solicitation. Respondents may contact the Procurement Team Leader for this Solicitation in the event this Solicitation is incomplete.
- d) The MassTech Collaborative may provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of materials in an alternative format, for Respondents with disabilities or other hardships. Respondents requiring accommodations shall submit requests in writing, with supporting documentation justifying the accommodations, to the Procurement Team Leader. The MassTech Collaborative reserves the right to grant or reject any request for accommodations.
- e) Respondent's Application shall be treated by the MassTech Collaborative as an accurate statement of Respondent's capabilities and experience. Should any statement asserted by Respondent prove to be inaccurate or inconsistent with the foregoing, such inaccuracy or inconsistency shall constitute sufficient cause for MassTech Collaborative in its sole discretion to reject the Application and/or terminate of any resulting Agreement.
- f) Costs that are not specifically identified in the Respondent's response and/or not specifically accepted by MassTech Collaborative as part of the Agreement will not be compensated under any contract awarded pursuant to this Solicitation.
- g) MassTech Collaborative's prior approval is required for any subcontracted services under any Agreement entered into as a result of this Solicitation. The selected Respondent will take all appropriate steps to assure that minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible. The selected Respondent is responsible for the satisfactory performance and adequate oversight of its subcontractors. Subcontractors are required to meet the same requirements and are held to the same reimbursable cost standards as the selected Respondent.
- h) Submitted responses must be valid in all respects for a minimum period of sixty (60) days after

the deadline for submission.

- i) MassTech Collaborative reserves the right to amend the Agreement at any time prior to execution. Respondents should review the Agreement as they are required to specify any exceptions to the Agreement and to make any suggested counterproposal in their Application. A failure to specify exceptions and/or counterproposals will be deemed an acceptance of the Agreement's general terms and conditions, and no subsequent negotiation of such provisions shall be permitted.

4.2 Posting of Modifications/Addenda to Solicitation

This Solicitation has been distributed electronically using the MassTech Collaborative website. If the MassTech Collaborative determines that it is necessary to revise any part of this Solicitation, or if additional data is necessary to clarify any of its provisions, an addendum will be posted to the website. It is the responsibility of each potential Respondent to check the MassTech Collaborative website for any addenda or modifications to the Solicitation. The MassTech Collaborative accepts no liability and will provide no accommodation to Respondents who submit a response based on an out-of-date Solicitation.

Attachment A
Application Cover Sheet

Company Name			
Proposal Title			
Company Address (headquarters)	City/Town	State	Zip Code
Telephone	Fax	Web Address	
Total Project Amount	Federal Support Requested	MassTech Capital Funds Being Requested	
Primary Contact for Clarification		Primary Contact E-mail Address	
Authorized Signatory		Authorized Signatory E-mail Address	
Legal Status/Jurisdiction (e.g., a Massachusetts Corporation, LLC, LLP, etc.)		Respondents DUNS No.	
Project Location/Region		Names of all partners in Massachusetts	
Brief Project Description (<50 Words)			
<p>Please indicate the CHIPS for America Funding Pathway that you are applying for (check 1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leading Edge Logic Fabs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current Generation, Mature-node, and Back-end</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Material Supplied and Equipment Users</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Research and Development (R&D) Facilities</p>			

Attachment B
Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
Authorized Respondent's Signature and Acceptance Form

The undersigned is a duly authorized representative of the Respondent listed below. The Respondent has read and understands the Solicitation requirements. The Respondent acknowledges that all of the terms and conditions of the Solicitation are mandatory. By executing this Authorized Respondent's Signature and Acceptance Form, Respondent certifies that they (1) are in compliance with the terms, conditions and specifications contained in this Solicitation, (2) acknowledges and understands the procedures for handling materials submitted to the MassTech Collaborative as set forth in section 3.1 f. of this Solicitation, (3) agrees to be bound by those procedures, and (4) agrees that the MassTech Collaborative shall not be liable under any circumstances for the disclosure of any materials submitted to the MassTech Collaborative pursuant to this Solicitation or upon the Respondent's selection.

The Respondent understands that, if selected by the MassTech Collaborative, the Respondent and MassTech Collaborative will execute an Agreement specifying the mutual requirements of participation. The undersigned has either (*please check one*):

- specified exceptions and counter-proposals to the terms and conditions of the [Research and Development Matching Grant Agreement and Statement of Work](#) or
- agrees to the terms and conditions set forth therein;

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that the failure to submit exceptions and counter-proposals with this response shall be deemed a waiver, and the Agreement shall not be subject to further negotiation.

Respondent agrees that the entire bid response will remain valid for sixty (60) days from receipt by the MassTech Collaborative.

I certify that Respondent is in compliance with all corporate filing requirements and State tax laws.

I further certify that the statements made in this response to the Solicitation, including all attachments and exhibits, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respondent: _____
(Printed Name of Respondent)

By: _____
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Attachment C
Budget Template

SEE EXCEL SPREADSHEET