

Member Initiated Projects

November 17, 2017

Approved by the Member Advisory Committee

Background

The PowerAmerica Member Initiated Projects (MIP) program is a valuable benefit of the Institute that is focused on critical needs of the WBG community. The specific purpose of establishing MIP is to provide a mechanism for Institute members to collectively identify the priority projects that are needed to advance WBG commercialization and to direct resources to address those challenges. As the name implies, these projects will be funded by member dues and other revenue generating activities the Institute may perform (without DOE funds).

The MIP was conceived at the outset of the Institute. At the August 2, 2017 Member Advisory Committee meeting, it was agreed that a process should be established for the program's implementation. Intellectual property rights to MIP projects are subject to the existing PowerAmerica by-laws. The fund for member projects presently stands at about \$800,000 with approximately \$300-\$350,000 in new funds available each year.

Project Guidelines

- a. Projects should be pre-competitive in nature, the results of which should benefit members broadly without the expectation of intellectual property creation. Project output will be shared with all members.
- b. Projects can be up to 12 months in length.
- c. One large project or several different, smaller projects may be developed to be performed in parallel.
- d. Cost match is encouraged but not required.
- e. Projects can be proposed and carried out by any member in good standing. Projects need not be performed by the proposing member.
- f. Although pre-competitive in nature, it is expected that project will contribute to the PA mission of realizing manufacturing jobs creation and energy savings through accelerated large-scale adoption of WBG semiconductor devices in power electronics systems, consistent with PowerAmerica's SiC or GaN technology roadmaps.
- g. Collaboration between members is encouraged.
- h. No MIP funds can flow to non-members (except for materials, supplies, contracted services, etc.)
- i. The award of an MIP will not affect the member's core project activity or funding.

Implementation

1. PowerAmerica established an MIP Working Group at the August 2, 2017 Member Advisory Committee meeting to provide guidance for proposing projects and the review, selection, and award process.
2. PowerAmerica will post announcements related to MIP project selection and funding through its InfoReady application.
3. Candidate topics for possible projects will be presented to the Member Advisory Committee for consideration. Presentations shall be limited to three slides and a five minute oral presentation that describe the topic according to the Project Guidelines of this document and mindful of the selection criteria in item 6.
4. Only project topics receiving a majority of Member Advisory Committee votes (using the weighted voting system) will be considered further.
5. Once the project topics have been determined, PowerAmerica will solicit proposals from Members to conduct the work identified in the project topics. An abstract, SOPO, and budget are required for each proposal. The number of projects selected will be determined in part by available funds as determined by the MIP Working Group. Any Member can submit a proposal and need not have recommended the concept.
6. The MIP Working Group will evaluate the proposals, assisted by PowerAmerica staff, and make a recommendation for funding to the Member Advisory Committee. Outside expertise may be employed as needed as part of the review. Suggested criteria for members to consider when voting are:
 - a. Significance: The extent to which the project, if successfully carried out, will make an important and/or original contribution to the field of endeavor. The project should be pre-competitive in nature and broadly benefit the membership.
 - b. Approach: The extent to which the concept, design, methods, analyses, and technologies are properly developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project.
 - c. Feasibility: The likelihood that the proposed work can be accomplished within the proposed budget by the investigators or the technical staff, given their expertise, past performance, available resources, institutional/organizational commitment, and (if appropriate) access to technologies.
 - d. Time to implementation: The speed with which the project output can be put into commercial practice
 - e. Impact on US manufacturing: Job creation, economic impact, or education and workforce development impact.
7. Once proposals are selected for an award, subsequent meetings may be organized with the MIP Working Group to shape and refine the project plans.
8. PowerAmerica will issue the award to the project recipient(s).
9. Project reporting will be quarterly, plus a final report, submitted to the full Member Advisory Committee.