NEMC POWER Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO): Informational Webinar Q&A

November 13, 2025

Go to POWER Program website for all NOFO detail and deadlines: https://nemicroelectronics.org/power

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1. COST SHARE & FUNDING

- **What is the total funding available for this grant opportunity?** The total program fund is $1,200,000.

- **What is the minimum cost-share requirement?**
  A minimum 20% cost share is required. (More than 20% is acceptable.)

- **What can be counted towards cost-share (e.g., faculty time, discounts, or assembling from partners)?**
  - In-kind contributions such as faculty time (if you are a State University) and other people's time.
  - Cost share can be assembled from multiple employer partners (e.g., 10% from each).
  - A 20% discount negotiated with an equipment vendor could count towards the cost-share.

- **What are allowable expenses that can be budgeted for university applicants (e.g., student salary, tuition, faculty salary)?**
  Salaries for graduate students and postdocs, fringe benefits, tuition, and faculty summer salary are generally allowable expenses, as are supplies, travel, and equipment.

- **Can federal funding or funds from another state be used for the match?**
  Federal funds cannot be used for the match. However, state funds can.

- **Is there a cap on indirect costs (university overhead)?**
  There is no defined cap for this grant; however, we would expect the lowest overhead possible to be submitted.

- **Is there a suggested proposal request amount or a maximum amount for one award?**
  No, there is no desired size or suggested amount. Reviewers will seek the best solution. Whether your proposal is for $50,000 or $1.1 million, you must convince the readers that your project makes sense and can change outcomes.

- **We are wondering what the budget limit is that we can propose for this one-year period?**
  The total program fund is $1,200,000, and a minimum 20% cost share is required. While there is no stated maximum proposal amount for a single award, the unwritten limit is effectively the entire available program funding, $1,200,000, assuming you provide the required minimum cost share for that amount. However, there is no desired size or suggested amount, and the reviewers will seek the best solution.

- **What is the desired length of the project period of performance?**
  The program is looking for a fairly quick turnaround, targeting a period of performance of about one year (give or take), aiming for rapid contracting and activity completion.

- **Can a service contract or extended warranty be considered part of an equipment purchase for the grant funds?**
  No, a service contract or extended warranty is considered a business operation cost and cannot

be part of the equipment purchase.

- **Would the salary and fringe benefits for Postdoc and graduate students be covered?**
  Salaries are generally allowable, and fringe benefits would typically be budgeted with the salary.

- **For graduate students, can their tuition be budgeted?**
  Tuition/training expenses are generally allowable.

- **For the faculty involved, can their salary (e.g., summer salary) be budgeted?**
  Salaries are generally allowable, which would include summer salary for faculty.

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2. APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINES

- **When is the application due?**
  Applications are due absolutely no later than December 15 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Late applications will not be accepted.

- **When will awards be announced? When does/may the 1 year of funding begin?**
  Awards are anticipated to be announced in early 2026. The specific start date of the one year of funding is TBD but will follow quickly after contracting.

- **Will a letter of commitment for the cost share be needed for the application?**
  You do not need a formal letter of commitment for the application, but the commitment will be required when the organization enters into contracting if awarded.

- **Will the webinar slides and a recording be made available?**
  The slides and a document containing all the Q&A will be shared post-webinar on both the

POWER webpage https://nemicroelectronics.org/power and the NEMC Member Portal https://nemccommunity.smallworldlabs.com/groups/home/44.

Note: You must be a member to access this portal. If you haven't set up your account yet, simply visit http://members.nemctech.org/atlas/, click "Forgot Password," and use your NEMC communications email to set your initial password. Please email David Chen at chen@masstech.org for any issues.

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3. PROGRAM SCOPE & ELIGIBILITY

- **Where must the applicant business be located, and where must the solution take place?**
  The business can be located anywhere in the United States, but the solution must take place in one of the key states for the NEMC Hub: New England (ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI) plus NY and NJ.

- **Must the applicant be a NEMC Member?**
  Yes, you must be a NEMC member to be awarded the funding. Non-members are encouraged to apply immediately at https://nemicroelectronics.org/membership. The NEMC team is currently prioritizing the expedited review and processing of all new applications.

- **Is an employer commitment required?**
  Yes, absolutely. You must have a commitment from an employer. This ensures that the training meets the needs of the industry and has a real pathway to a job. The applicant itself can be the employer.

- **What is the definition of an employer partner?**

The term is defined broadly as an entity (for-profit or non-profit) that is looking to hire and/or continue to employ someone working in the microelectronics space.

- **Can a university submit a proposal independently, or must an employer partner be included?**
  A university must have an employer partner in the programming. They cannot submit independently unless the university itself is acting as the employer (e.g., upskilling their own incumbent workers).

- **My proposal involves collaboration with universities outside the region. Is there any issue if much of the proposed funding goes toward US universities outside of the region?**
  While the applicant can be located anywhere, the workforce solution must occur in the Northeast region.

- **Are collaborations encouraged?**
  Yes, while not required, partnerships and collaborations are strongly encouraged.

- **Is there a forum for applicants to connect for collaboration opportunities?**
  Yes, a discussion forum will be enabled within the NEMC Member Portal https://nemccommunity.smallworldlabs.com/groups/home/44 to allow members to identify potential partners and collaboration opportunities.

  Note: You must be a member to access this portal. If you haven't set up your account yet, simply visit http://members.nemctech.org/atlas/, click "Forgot Password," and use your NEMC communications email to set your initial password. Please email David Chen at chen@masstech.org for any issues.

- **Can a used tool be proposed for purchase?**
  Yes, proposing a used tool is acceptable, provided it makes sense for your desired result.