CESMII Selects Four Education & Workforce Development Project Proposals for Negotiations

Proposal teams identified to advance to final stage of RFP2 – Wave 2 project selection process

LOS ANGELES, CALIF., July 7, 2020 — CESMII - the Smart Manufacturing Institute today announced that four (4) project proposals submitted in response to the RFP2 – Wave 2 open solicitation have been selected for negotiations. No project funding has been released at this point. Rather, this is the last step in the award process of this solicitation. Any, or all, of the four selected teams that successfully complete negotiations will be awarded project funding and move to the project execution phase. Negotiations are expected to be completed within the next 3 weeks.

For RFP2 – Wave 2, CESMII anticipates making up to $1,400,000 in total funding available with $700,000 in Federal funding and project teams contributing an equal amount in Member cost-share. Periods of performance for the funded projects will be from 6 – 18 months, and all projects will be stage-gated. CESMII is not required to spend any, or all, of the funds currently allocated. Final investment levels will be determined in this negotiation phase.

The teams selected for negotiation are listed below, with the lead-organization listed first:

- **West Virginia University (WVU)** and Festo Didactic will create modular and scalable curricula that allow students of diverse backgrounds to learn in a hands-on manner how Industry 4.0 technologies and data-driven analytics are applied in SM.

- **Auburn University (AU), Rayonier Advanced Materials** and **Linde** will establish and validate a novel model of SM training, including a complete circle of content creation, delivery and evaluation.

- **University of Texas - El Paso (UTEP), Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC)** and **Paso del Norte (PdN)** will create an SM curriculum and certificate program to attract and grow an SM-educated workforce, particularly across a minority group, to help achieve the CESMII goal of ‘participation of underrepresented groups’ in the institute.

- **Purdue University (West Lafayette)** will develop a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum for preparing manufacturing engineers who can meet the demands of an SM workplace.

Commenting on the announcement, CESMII’s Director of Ecosystem & Workforce Development, Conrad Leiva said, “The response to this wave of projects was outstanding, which shows the importance of building the ecosystem for educating workers and students. It also shows that U.S. educators are taking steps to meet the demand and teach Smart Manufacturing. That wasn’t the case just a few years ago. We’re excited to take this step forward with them and work on these projects to build training programs, as we continue to work in parallel on delivering foundational education and extended transformational services to all CESMII constituents.”

The RFP2 – Wave 2 project call was released in November 2019 with a focus on Education & Workforce Development (EWD) deliverables. EWD is one of four strategic pillars in the institute’s roadmap. In response to the project call, twenty (20) white papers were submitted for consideration. Eleven (11) of
those white papers were approved at that stage and asked to develop a full proposal. CESMII and DOE conducted extensive proposal reviews with internal and external review teams to select the four (4) projects approved to move to final negotiations.

More information about CESMII’s EWD strategy and progress can be found in the virtualized “EWD Keynote” from CESMII’s 2020 Annual Meeting. Visit the CESMII website (https://www.cesmii.org/virtual-annual-meeting-2020/) for more information, or YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/WXz93LC7Yxg) to watch the recording.

About CESMII
CESMII is the United States’ national institute on Smart Manufacturing, driving cultural and technological transformation and secure industrial technologies as national imperatives. By enabling frictionless movement of information – raw and contextualized data – between real-time Operations and the people and systems that create value in and across Manufacturing organizations, CESMII is ensuring the power of information and innovation is at the fingertips of everyone who touches manufacturing.

The Institute is accelerating Smart Manufacturing (SM) adoption through the integration of advanced sensors, data (ingestion – contextualization – modeling – analytics), platforms and controls to radically impact manufacturing performance, through measurable improvements in areas such as: Quality, throughput, costs/profitability, safety, asset reliability and energy productivity. CESMII’s program and administrative home is with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office.

For more information, visit the CESMII website at: https://www.cesmii.org.