

National Network for Manufacturing Innovation Overview

The National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) is an initiative envisioned by President Obama to bring together industry, academia, and government partners to leverage existing resources, collaborate, and co-invest to advance manufacturing innovation and accelerate commercialization. The NNMI will create competitive, effective, and sustainable manufacturing research-to-manufacturing infrastructure for U.S. industry and academia. The network consists of multiple linked Institutes for Manufacturing Innovation with common goals but unique technological concentrations.

Each institute will accelerate U.S. advanced manufacturing by catalyzing the development of new technologies, educational competencies, production processes, and products via shared contributions from the public and private sectors and academia. The institutes will provide shared facilities to local start-ups and small manufacturers to help them scale up new technologies, accelerate technology transfer to the marketplace, and facilitate the adoption of innovation developments across supply chains. Each institute will also act as a ‘teaching factory’ to build workforce skills at multiple levels and to strengthen business capabilities in large and small companies.

Individual institutes will serve as a regional hub in their area, bridging the gap between applied research and product development with a focus in key technology areas that encourage investment and production in their region and in the United States. As nodes in the NNMI, the institutes will complement each other’s capabilities and benefit from shared approaches to matters such as intellectual property, contract research, and performance metrics. While the institutes will be regionally focused, the network will be national, integrated, and dynamic, aiming to foster innovation and deliver new capabilities that can stimulate the manufacturing sector on a large scale.