



## **SUPPORT FUNDING FOR INSTITUTES FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION**

*Optics & Photonics Underpin Next Generation Technologies*

The National Photonics Initiative (NPI) believes strongly that maintaining US leadership in manufacturing is a key component of increased national competitiveness. Manufacturing industries have long collaborated with the federal government in public-private partnerships to develop new technologies that build and maintain America's economic and military strength. Public-private partnerships bridge the gap between research and product development, provide shared assets to help companies all along the supply chain and stimulate growth in domestic manufacturing job creation.

### **President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Request for New Institutes for Manufacturing Innovation (IMIs)**

The president's fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget request includes \$47 million for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to support new, open-topic IMIs as part of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI). The NNMI is a public-private partnership between the federal government, local governments, universities, research institutes and industry to accelerate US manufacturing innovation in technologies with commercial applications by leveraging resources that bridge the gap between basic research and product development.

Advances in optics and photonics – the science and application of light – can be leveraged across a wide range of disciplines and are ideally suited to the collaborative and commercially-driven IMIs. Recognizing the importance of photonics the Department of Defense (DOD) announced in June 2015 the first photonics integrated IMI, now named the American Institute for Manufacturing Integrated Photonics (AIM Photonics). AIM Photonics is located in New York and has partners in over 20 states.

### **Continued Support for the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act (RAMI)**

The NPI supported the passage of RAMI, which was enacted as part of the omnibus signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 16, 2014. The bipartisan RAMI legislation authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish new IMIs through NIST as part of the NNMI.

The president's FY 2017 \$47 million request targets seven new manufacturing institutes in the departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Defense and Energy as part of the overall \$1.9 billion NNMI program budget that builds on the nine institutes and support for an additional 29 institutes. Optics and photonics technologies are critical to next-generation products and systems and can contribute to future IMIs.

**The National Photonics Initiative (NPI) asks Congress to support America's advanced manufacturing network by providing \$47 million to NIST for the NNMI program for FY 2017.**

### **About the NPI**

The NPI is a collaborative alliance among industry, academia and government seeking to raise awareness of photonics and the impact of photonics on our everyday lives; increase cooperation and coordination to advance photonics-driven fields; and drive US funding and investment in areas of photonics critical to maintaining US economic competitiveness and national security. The initiative is led by a coalition of scientific societies, including the American Physical Society (APS), the IEEE Photonics Society (IPS), the Laser Institute of America (LIA), The Optical Society (OSA) and SPIE, the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE).

For more information, visit [www.LightOurFuture.org](http://www.LightOurFuture.org) or contact Laura Kolton at 202.416.1499 or Krisinda Plenkovich at 360.483.8786.