This FOA is being issued by the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO). The U.S. manufacturing sector uses 25% of the nation’s energy and has an annual energy bill of more than $150 billion. Efficiency improvements in manufacturing not only benefit the manufacturing sector, but also impact the energy efficiency of products used throughout the economy.

The Federal Government has been funding the Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) program, formerly called the Energy Analysis and Diagnostic Center program, since 1976. The goal of the IAC program is twofold: first, to help US manufacturing competitiveness by providing assessments and recommendations for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on energy efficiency, productivity, sustainability and competitiveness – including measuring the impacts of these recommendations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and second, to address a growing shortage of engineering professionals with applied energy and manufacturing-related skills by training a diverse cross-section of engineering students through hands-on involvement in these assessments.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Section 452 (e), specifically identifies the purposes for IACs:

(e) Institution of higher education-based industrial research and assessment centers. The Secretary shall provide funding to institution of higher education-based industrial research and assessment centers, whose purpose shall be—

1. to identify opportunities for optimizing energy efficiency and environmental performance;
2. to promote applications of emerging concepts and technologies in small- and medium-sized manufacturers;
3. to promote research and development for the use of alternative energy sources to supply heat, power, and new feedstocks for energy-intensive industries;
4. to coordinate with appropriate Federal and State research offices, and provide a clearinghouse for industrial process and energy efficiency technical assistance resources; and
5. to coordinate with State-accredited technical training centers and community colleges, while ensuring appropriate services to all regions of the United States.

This FOA seeks to train the future clean energy and manufacturing workforce by providing hands-on experience for engineering students who will conduct energy assessments at SMEs, often located in rural communities.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- A U.S. college or school of engineering that is an integral part of its institutional structure and that has at least one of its undergraduate programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission or the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or equivalent.
- The cost share must be at least 20% of the total allowable costs and must come from non-federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law.

Interested applicants should submit the following documents:

1. JHU Limited Submission Cover Sheet
2. Proposal (maximum of two pages of text only, single spaced: 12-pt font and one-inch margins) (Note: figures, tables, and other reference material may be included in addition to the 2 pg. text limit)
3. Curriculum Vitae of investigator, including current external research support and publications
4. Budget (two pages maximum)

Questions? Comments? Email the Research Development Team at resapp@jhu.edu.