

JVIC Advanced Manufacturing Node Call for Projects

Seeking proposals for private sector projects that will advance the semiconductor industry in Missouri.

Key Dates:

Call for Projects Period Open – **Monday, November 25, 2024**

Submission Deadline – **Friday, January 10, 2025**

Introduction and General Information

The Jordan Valley Innovation Center (JVIC) at Missouri State University is a unique innovation center model that focuses on partnering with private sector businesses to create and advance new technologies. The JVIC, with private sector partners, is a leading force in technology development focused on collaborative cutting-edge research and development in nanotechnology, materials and other advanced technologies including semiconductor packaging and flexible electronics. The JVIC has a long history of collaborating with private sector companies, Department of Defense agencies, and other federal and state agencies to develop and accelerate technology development and manufacturing.

In 2023, the JVIC established the Advanced Manufacturing Node and a statewide consortium to strengthen the semiconductor manufacturing industry in Missouri. As part of this effort, the JVIC has been approved as the Missouri Node for NextFlex, a leading member of the Manufacturing USA Innovation Institutes focused on Semiconductors and Flexible Hybrid Electronics (FHE). The Node aims to foster collaboration with and among private businesses by providing investments in infrastructure for the rapid design, development and manufacturing adoption. National security and supply chain initiatives are addressed by facilitating technology innovation, accelerating the development of the manufacturing workforce, and promoting a much needed, sustainable advanced manufacturing ecosystem within the U.S.

For more information on the JVIC, visit <https://jvic.missouristate.edu>.

Call for Projects Proposal Submission

Call for Projects Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. CDT on Friday, January 10, 2025**, to be considered. Late proposals will not be accepted. It is the responsibility of the Applicant Organization to ensure that Missouri State University receives all required materials by the deadline stated above. Proposals should be submitted by providing a complete application and all required supporting documents. Proposals that do not submit all the required supporting documents may not be considered for funding at Missouri State University's sole discretion.

The Call for Projects proposal guidelines can be found at <https://jvic.missouristate.edu/>

Background & Goals

The JVIC recently received funding from the Missouri Department of Economic Development as appropriated by the Missouri General Assembly. This purpose of this funding is to support the JVIC Advanced Manufacturing Node by investing in competitive private sector projects that focus on technology, infrastructure and/or workforce development to support and grow the semiconductor industry sector in Missouri. The JVIC has \$4,000,000 available to invest in projects with this funding.

Any information included in the Proposal that an Applicant Organization wishes to request to be treated as confidential during the evaluation process should be clearly marked as confidential.

All responses must be accompanied by a certification that the information contained in the application is complete, true and correct, and acknowledges that submitting false or misleading information in connection with the application may be punishable by law.

Grant Proposal Form and Content

The Call for Projects proposal should be combined into a single file and submitted as a PDF, including the project budget, Affirmation and Signature Page, and all supporting documents. The PDF document must not exceed 25MB.

Cover Letter

The cover letter should include the name and contact information for the Applicant Organization, the amount of funding being requested not to exceed \$1,000,000, a brief summary of the project activities, the organization, its goals, and the projected economic impact of the project if selected for funding. The cover letter may not exceed two pages in length and should be included in the Grant Application.

Call for Projects Proposal

Each Proposal should include a section that clearly and concisely addresses the topics below and should not exceed twenty (20) pages in length. Please clearly label each section with the title in parentheses. The cover letter and the additional supporting documentation will not count toward the 20-page limit.

- a. **Summary:** A brief summary or overview of the entire proposed project (Abstract).
- b. **Applicant Organization:** An overview of the Applicant Organization, including a brief summary of the Applicant Organization's experience, past success and capability to deliver the proposed project. The Applicant Organization must be a private company located in Missouri, a division of a private company located in Missouri, or a private company located outside of Missouri, which is collaborating with a Missouri organization on a project to advance existing technologies or create new technologies to support the semiconductor industry in Missouri.

If an Applicant Organization has multiple locations in Missouri, it may submit more than one application if the company can demonstrate how each project meets the goals and satisfies all the requirements of the program. Each application will be scored independently based on the evaluation criteria.

- c. Project Description: A detailed description of the project proposed to receive grant funding. The description should address the following items:
 1. How the project will enhance and grow the semiconductor industry in Missouri.
 2. How this project will meet the goals of the program by increasing the manufacturing capabilities in Missouri through investments in technology, infrastructure and/or workforce development.

- d. Other Requirements:
 1. Grant budget pre-award date: The grant proposal may include eligible pre-award project expenses incurred after July 1, 2024.
 2. Matching funds: There are no matching funds required, but matching funds will be included in the evaluation criteria as stated. Matching funds may include cash, in-kind match (materials, labor, or services, etc.) and other federal or private funds. No other source of state funds may be used as match. All matching funds must be detailed and include a letter of commitment for the source of the match. Points will be awarded for matching funds that demonstrate support for the project.
 3. Eligible program costs: All costs associated with delivering the project involving technology, infrastructure and/or workforce development. This may include equipment, training, personnel, administration, etc. Grant funds cannot be used for construction activities, but facility construction or improvements may be used as project matching funds if the work and expenditures occur within the performance period of this program (July 1, 2024 – June 1, 2026). No grant project will receive an extension beyond the June 1, 2026 date for either the grant or matching funds.
 4. Timeline & Milestones: Describe the specific project milestones, with projected dates of completion, which will be required to achieve project results, including a description of how each milestone supports the expected project outcomes. Also, include any metrics that are important to the project outcomes and describe, if planned, efforts to collaborate with any partner organizations that are important to carry out the proposed project.
 5. Experience: A description of the experience of the Applicant Organization's leadership team that will be responsible for the successful development, implementation, and management of the proposed project.
 6. Economic Impact: Describe how the project will advance the semiconductor industry as a whole and, more specifically, the economic impact of Missouri semiconductor technology and manufacturing.

Project Budget

The proposal may not request more than \$1,000,000 in grant funds and must include a proposed budget, spending timeline, and supporting budget narrative for the project, including:

1. A brief narrative that describes the specific uses of grant funds, including how much funding will be spent each quarter during which grant funding will be expended.
2. A narrative that describes the source and use of matching funds.
3. A description of how the Applicant Organization intends to complete the project on or before June 1, 2026. Project completion is defined as achieving all the proposed activities, including the expenditure of grant and matching funds. There will be no project completion extension provided beyond June 1, 2026.
4. A description of the Applicant Organization's plan to sustain success after the project is completed.
5. A description of the Applicant Organization's plan to continue to be involved in the JVIC Advanced Manufacturing Node to strengthen the Missouri semiconductor industry.

Affirmation and Signature Page

The Applicant Organization is required to complete and sign the submitted proposal. The Affirmation and Signature page must be included in the final proposal. See Page 6 in this document.

Additional Supporting Documents

The Applicant is strongly encouraged to include additional supporting documents, including the Applicant Organization's business/operating/strategic plan, current financial report, letters of support, or commitment letters from any collaborating organizations.

Additional Notes

Questions related to the Advanced Manufacturing Resiliency Grant Program, including eligibility or proposal questions, should be directed to Allen Kunkel (AllenKunkel@MissouriState.edu).

The Call for Projects awards authorized by Missouri State University are contingent upon the Applicant Organization entering into a binding grant agreement with the University.

Evaluation Criteria

The Call for Project Grant Proposals submitted by eligible Applicant Organizations will be evaluated based on the five criteria outlined below:

Alignment with Goals and Objectives: Proposals should clearly articulate the details of the project technology, infrastructure and/or workforce development and how the project will advance the semiconductor industry in Missouri. The assigned score will reflect the scope and goals of the project.

Applicant Experience: Proposals will be assessed on the relative strength of the Applicant Organization's experience and prior success, including the management team of the Applicant Organization and the management teams of all partners involved. The assigned score will reflect the strength of the team's experience and ability to achieve the outcomes described in the project proposal, as well as working with the JVIC as a corporate affiliate. Please visit <https://jvic.missouristate.edu/> to learn more about being a JVIC partner.

Advantage & Economic Impact: Proposals will be assessed on the relative strength of the Applicant Organization's current and future economic ties to the state of Missouri and the proposed economic impact of the project within the state of Missouri, and its impact on the semiconductor industry.

Timeline & Milestones: Grant proposals will be assessed on the appropriateness of the timeline and milestones presented for the proposed project. The assigned score will reflect the appropriateness of the proposed timeline (funding must be utilized and project completed by June 1, 2026), and proposals that have clearly defined achievable milestones will score the highest. No project activities may extend beyond June 1, 2026 and no project extension will be provided.

Finance Plan & Sustainability: Grant proposals will be assessed on the relative strength of the Applicant Organization's proposed budget and the financial sustainability of the project. The assigned score will reflect the appropriateness of the budget, the amount of the matching funds presented relative to the funds requested, and the strength of matching funds (secured, cash vs. in kind). Proposals with a higher percentage cash match and total match will score the highest.

**JVIC Advanced Manufacturing Node
Missouri State University**

Proposal Affirmation and Signature Page

I certify that I am the authorized representative for the Application Organization who is authorized to make the statement of affirmation contained herein. To the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information contained in this application is complete, true, and correct. If any information submitted on or with this application requires alteration or supplementation, I agree to provide that information in writing to Missouri State University as soon as practical. I understand the submitting false or misleading information in connection with this application may be punishable by law.

<i>Applicant Organization Authorized Signature</i>	<i>Title</i>
<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Date</i>