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2026 Network Meeting

Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Day 1: Tuesday, May 12

8:00 AM Registration and Coffee

9:00 AM Welcome

Welcome and overview of the day's activities

Mike Molnar, Director, Office of Advanced Manufacturing, NIST

9:15 AM Keynote: Administration Leadership Priorities

OSTP leadership will share White House goals for advanced manufacturing and Manufacturing USA.

Lisa Friedersdorf, NSTC Executive Director, OSTP Principal Assistant Director for Physical Sciences and Engineering

10:00 AM Break and Group Photo

10:30 AM Ecosystem Impacts: Successful Projects & Initiatives

Highlighting initiatives that helped advance U.S. competitiveness and resilience, using the unique structure and mechanisms of an institute and the broader Manufacturing USA network.

Nick Morris, Deputy Director of Technology, NextFlex

Howard Grimes, Chief Executive Officer, CyManII

John Balchunas, Workforce Director, NIIMBL

Facilitated by Kate Peretti, Department of Energy

11:30 AM Networking Lunch

1:00 PM NASEM Study: Report and Findings

Presentation of National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine report, "A Vision for the Manufacturing USA Program in 2030 and 2035"

Theresa Kotanchek, Committee Chair, National Materials and Manufacturing Board, NASEM

1:45 PM Advanced Manufacturing Occupation and Competency Framework and Network Workforce Program Updates

Updates on the 2026 Manufacturing USA Occupation and Competency Framework and program updates from across the network

Brad Conrad, Education and Workforce Development Manager, NIST

Angela Accurso, Director, Workforce Programs for MxD Learn, MxD

John Zappa, Senior Director of Product Management, ARM Institute

Conrad Leiva, Vice President of Ecosystem & Workforce Development, CESMII

John Balchunas, Workforce Director, NIIMBL

Andrew Pokelwaldt, Education and Workforce Director, IACMI

2:45 PM Break

3:00 PM Communities of Practice Discussion Sessions

Open discussion sessions for Directors/COOs, Technology/CTOs, Communications leads, and Agency staff, to address issues relevant to their areas of expertise.

Directors/COOs facilitated by Said Jahanmir and Mark Schmit, NIST

Technology/CTOs facilitated by Christina Jones and Mahesh Mani, NIST

Communications, facilitated by Zara Brunner, NIST

Federal Agency Staff, facilitated by Kelley Rogers, NIST

3:00-5:00pm Education and Workforce Development Meeting

EWD Leads and invited guests.

Facilitated by Brad Conrad, Education and Workforce Development Manager, NIST

4:30 PM Manufacturing USA Recognition and Opportunities

Overview of updates to Manufacturing USA recognition process and definitions.

Robert Rudnitsky, Senior Advisor, Office of Advanced Manufacturing, NIST

5:00 PM Closing Remarks

Aaron Sasson, MII Liaison Officer, Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) Program, Department of War

5:15 PM Adjourn

Day 2: Wednesday, May 7

8:45 AM Coffee and Networking

9:00 AM Welcome Back

Overview of the day's activities

Diana Bauer, Director, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office, Department of Energy

9:15 AM Keynote: Addressing Key Valleys in Commercialization

This session will touch on the distinct valleys of commercialization—from lab-scale research to sustainable capital and industrial production—and share interventions and strategies that can empower researchers and scale domestic production

Ben Solomon, CEO, FedTech

10:00 AM Coffee and Networking Break

10:15 AM The Annual Agency Outlook: Progress & Priorities

This session will feature updates from the three sponsoring agencies, highlighting key developments over the past year, major accomplishments, and strategic priorities for the upcoming year.

Mike Molnar, Director, Office of Advanced Manufacturing, NIST

Diana Bauer, Director, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office, Department of Energy

Aaron Sasson, MII Liaison Officer, Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) Program, Department of War

11:00 AM NASEM Study Discussion

A facilitated opportunity to process and unpack findings of the NASEM study and identify priorities.

Facilitated by Leah Kauffman, Senior Advisor, Office of Advanced Manufacturing, NIST

12:00 PM Closing Remarks

Mike Molnar, Director, Office of Advanced Manufacturing, NIST

12:15 PM Meeting Ends

12:30 PM Manufacturing USA Council Meeting

Council Members and invited guests only

1:30 PM Council Meeting Ends. Meeting Adjourns for All.