

**Request for Information:**  
*Expanding Connecticut's Young Manufacturing Talent Pipeline Initiative*  
**Questions & Answers**  
as of January 5, 2017

- **Question:** The cover sheet says the submission deadline is 1/16, but under the submission instructions it states 1/15 by 4:00 pm. Can you please clarify the due date?
- **Answer:** The submission instructions deadline is an error. The deadline is close of Business: **January 16, 2017 by 5:00 p.m. (EST).**
  
- **Question:** I am curious what decisions will be made at DECD with this RFI?
- **Answer:** The decisions that will be made by DECD are to further explore the ideas provided to the department via the RFI and issue a Request for Proposal.
  
- **Question:** Will there be a subsequent RFP?
- **Answer:** DECD will make the determination if a subsequent RFP will be issued by **February 15, 2017.**
  
- **Question:** On February 15th, what will we be contacted about?
- **Answer:** On February 15th, those that have responded to the RFI will be informed as to whether an RFP would be issued.
  
- **Question:** Has a budget range been determined for this project.
- **Answer:** No, a budget range has not been determined for this project.
  
- **Question:** Is there any flexibility in the due date?
- **Answer:** Unfortunately, there is no flexibility in the due date.
  
- **Question:** The bottom of the "Proposal Guidelines" page says the idea/concept must inform DECD on "the state-of-the-art for addressing the identified challenge/opportunity." Can you clarify what this means?
- **Answer:** This means that we are requesting innovative ways, out of the box thinking, incorporating the newest ideas and the most up-to-date concepts.
  
- **Question:** The first priority target audience includes "all Connecticut middle-grade students." Can you define the grade range that "middle-grade" encompasses for the purposes of the RFI?
- **Answer:** There is no middle- grade level differentiation. For purpose of the RFI, youth is defined as the age group range of 8-18 years of age.
  
- **Question:** Are footnotes permitted in the 3-page narrative? If so, are there any formatting guidelines for footnotes?
- **Answer:** Yes, footnotes are permitted. There are no formatting guidelines.
  
- **Question:** Are tables and/or charts permitted in the narrative? If so, are there formatting guidelines?
- **Answer:** Yes, tables and/or charts are permitted in the narrative. There are no formatting guidelines.