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Contact:
Joe Steele
LIFT
313-309-9132
jsteele@almmii.org

LIFT Launches "U LIFT" Challenge Seeking Solutions to Modeling & Simulation Issues

The "Shark Tank"-style challenge is designed to solicit exciting new project ideas dealing with Integrated Computational Engineering (ICME) problems.

DETROIT – LIFT, the Detroit-based, Department of Defense national manufacturing innovation institute, today announced the launch of its "U LIFT" challenge, designed to solicit new and innovative solutions to Integrated Computational Engineering (ICME) problems.

The challenge, funded by LIFT and modeled after the popular television show "Shark Tank," is open to universities – current LIFT academic members as well as non-members - from across the country. Submitted proposals will be reviewed initially by the LIFT Technology Team and then a select number will be invited to present their proposal in a "Shark Tank"-style virtual meeting, including LIFT staff and industry members from the LIFT Technology Interest Group. Proposals will be accepted through October 29, 2021.

Submissions should align with LIFT's ICME technology thrusts, including hypersonics, lightweight armor, weapon systems, space, orphan & obsolete parts, airframe structures or cross collaboration with LIFT's other technology pillars, including advanced material & process development, multi-material joining, and agile & smarter manufacturing. Materials of interest include metallics, ceramics, and hybrid materials.

"Universities and academic institutions are critical to our ecosystem and our collective mission to Drive American Manufacturing Into the Future Through

Technology and Talent Development," said Hadrian Rori, Chief Technology Officer, LIFT. "Computational Engineering is a critical tool as we weave the digital thread through manufacturing processes, so we designed this challenge as a fun and innovative way to find creative solutions to issues industry might be facing."

ICME is key toward moving to a Smarter Manufacturing future, defined by LIFT as the connection of materials, processes and systems, because it allows engineers and manufacturers to model materials and their reaction to various processes in a virtual space, speeding up the time to design and refine the manufacturing process for a specific component.

For the U LIFT Challenge, projects will be evaluated on:

- Technological Merit,
- Technology Readiness Level/Manufacturing Readiness Level,
- Ability to meet program timing & Proposed Budget
- LIFT Member Engagement

Proposed Project Budget: LIFT provided funding not to exceed $50,000 per proposal and, in order for the U LIFT Challenge winners to receive funding, LIFT membership and 25% cost share are required. There is no limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by a single university.

Proposed Project Timeline: Projects should be completed within 9 months after contract award date.

For more information or to submit a proposal, visit www.lift.technology/project-calls.

ABOUT LIFT

LIFT, operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute, is the Detroit-based, public-private partnership between the Department of Defense, industry and academia, committed to the development and deployment of advanced manufacturing technologies, and implementing talent development initiatives to better prepare the workforce today and in the future. LIFT funded in part by the Department of Defense with management through the Office of Naval Research. Visit www.lift.technology or follow on LinkedIn at LIFT or on Twitter @NewsFromLIFT to learn more.