



GE  
Aviation

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Applied Science & Technology Research  
Organization of America (ASTRO America)  
6701 Democracy Blvd., Suite 300  
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Re: AM Forward

GE Aviation is pleased to join the federal government in implementing AM Forward—a voluntary compact aimed at strengthening U.S. supply chains by supporting U.S. based suppliers' adoption and deployment of additive manufacturing (AM), or industrial 3D printing capabilities.

Additive manufacturing is a leading-edge production technology that is foundational to U.S. global competitiveness; it has a number of benefits, including forming geometries that are unattainable through any other medium. Aerospace and defense companies use this technology to significantly consolidate part counts and design high-performing components across a number of platform-types, ranging from hypersonics to aircraft engines.

Additive manufacturing also has the potential to improve the agility of casting and forging supply chains where legacy processes are often resource and time intensive. If appropriately qualified and applied, additive manufacturing can be used to reduce part lead times substantially, even under current supply chain conditions. Doing so will require considerable support to suppliers—especially small and medium sized enterprises.

Through AM Forward, GE Aviation aims to ensure that within a 12-24 month period multiple U.S.-based suppliers have increased their ability to additively produce parts, enhancing their competitiveness, agility, and productivity. Such an initiative will demonstrate clear, consistent, and growing demand for additively produced parts, provide training to suppliers' workers to support broad additive capabilities, engage in standards development, and offer technical assistance. We appreciate the federal government's support of these efforts through U.S. Government financing programs, capacity building, workforce development initiatives and other mechanisms.

Specifically, GE Aviation will support the goals of AM Forward by committing to:

- Targeting small/medium sized suppliers to compete on 50% of the request for quotes that are sent out on products manufactured using additive or related technologies
- Targeting 30% of total external sourcing of additively manufactured parts to be purchased from a small/medium sized supplier

