

Advanced Manufacturing Technology Transfer Centers (AM-TTC)

Evaluation Criteria for Centers applying for a 2nd funding period

The aim of the AM-TTC initiative is to establish and maintain a network of technology transfer centers in the field of advanced manufacturing in Switzerland. In this document, you will find a description of the criteria that the governing body of the network, the association "AM-TTC Alliance", will use to evaluate the proposals of existing AM-TTC (hereinafter called "Center") that apply for federal funding under Art. 15 RIPA for a second period of four years. These criteria differ slightly from the criteria that the AM-TTC Alliance use to evaluate the proposals of new Centers.

1 Focus area, demand and importance

1.1 Focus area

Is there a well-defined focus area of the Center in advanced manufacturing technologies that differentiates the Center from other organizations?

1.2 Gap between research and industry

How big is the gap to transfer the technologies of the focus area between research organizations and industry taking into account their existing capabilities and facilities?

1.3 Difficulty to close the gap

How difficult is it to close the gap for industry and how much do the research organizations (science) need to contribute with their capabilities and cutting-edge technology to enable the technology transfer?

1.4 Importance for the Swiss industry

How important is the Center for the Swiss industry – also long-term – and will the Center impact the competitiveness of companies that are active in the defined focus area?

2 Competences and capabilities

2.1 Involvement of important partners

Does the Center involve the important players of the scientific and technical community in Switzerland that are active in the defined focus area?

2.2 Competences of staff and partners

Are the competences of the Center staff – in particular of the CEO and the core team – and of the involved partners suitable and sufficient to ensure that the Center are an attractive technology transfer partner for the scientific and technical community in the focus area?

2.3 Suitability of capabilities and facilities

Are the capabilities and facilities of the Center suitable and sufficient to close the gap between research organizations and industry in the defined focus area?

2.4 Business environment

Is the Center embedded in a business environment that supports and facilitates the activities of the Center, e.g. other organizations that are close by and that have related activities, businesses partners and facilities?

3 Financials

3.1 Business plan

Is there a sound and realistic mid- and long-term business plan which includes a strategic plan and which shows the business development (projects, services, etc.), key partners, roadmaps and milestones of technology features achieved, etc.?

3.2 Sustainability of the business

Is it likely that existing or future partners will fund the activities of the Center also beyond the four-year period and that there will be customers who are interested in the Center's capabilities and offerings in the long-term?

3.3 Financially strong and committed partners

Is there a group of committed and strong partners of the Center and have these partners the capability and willingness to support the Center financially, in case the financial needs are beyond what is foreseen in the business plan?

3.4 Public-private partnership

Has the Center important and relevant public as well as private partners that support the Center with in-kind or cash contributions or by collaborations?