SMARTER NC

Smart Manufacturing Adoption to Realize Transformative Energy Reductions for North Carolina

ABOUT THE SMARTER NC FEDERAL GRANT
Goal: Provide targeted technical assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers, increasing awareness, access to, and implementation of smart manufacturing technologies with priority outreach to rural communities and underrepresented populations.

Smart Manufacturing is how technology is used to enhance operational efficiency and make businesses more profitable.

The Benefits of Smart Manufacturing

Improved efficiency
Smart factories can monitor equipment performance and automate complex processes, improving accuracy and reducing human error.

Increased productivity
Smart factories can use data to identify issues, such as when a machine is slowing down production, and then use artificial intelligence systems to resolve them.

Long-term cost savings
Smart factories can use predictive maintenance to identify potential problems early and address them at a convenient time, which can save money.

Greater flexibility
Smart factories can scale production quickly to meet changing demand and can customize products to meet specific customer needs.

How Can You Participate in the SMARTER NC Federal Grant Program?

1. Complete an application to find out if your company is ready to participate.
ncstateies.com/sncapp

2. For more information view the video on the website:
ncstateies.com/smarternc

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AWARDEE™

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
Industry Expansion Solutions

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How Does the SMARTER NC Program Work?

1. Small-to-medium-sized (less than 500 employees) in North Carolina manufacturers will complete a short application (approximate time to complete is 10 minutes) to determine if their company is ready to participate in the program. **ncstateies.com/sncapp**

2. The SMARTER NC team will review applications. 100 initially qualified companies selected to participate will receive an initial walkthrough viability assessment. Assessment includes verification of application items, confirmation of production and energy systems, and collection of information concerning current and future commitments to smart manufacturing*.
**Important: The company should assign a smart manufacturing project decision-maker*

3. From the initial 100 assessments, 75 small-to-medium-sized manufacturers will be approved to receive comprehensive smart manufacturing technical assessments to help develop implementation project ideas and strategies. Includes process assessments and energy assessments.* Results will be shared with the company to assist with their engagements with 3rd party integrators for a project solution plan and cost proposal. Project solution plan and cost proposal are to be submitted SMARTER NC for approval of any reimbursements prior to project start. 50 projects will be approved for partial reimbursement of some project non-equipment costs.
**Funding priority will be given to higher energy use projects*

4. The Department of Energy's designated contracting officer, and the SMARTER NC team review the quote and agree to reimburse a matching level of non-equipment costs including integration and training expenses. Note: Participating companies must provide matching investment of at least 30% of project cost. Example: For a $20,000 smart manufacturing implementation project, SMARTER NC can approve reimbursement of up to $14,000. Maximum reimbursement to any company project is $25,000. Average reimbursements are expected to be ~$13,000. Complete approved SMARTER NC project and submit reimbursement request before March 15, 2027.

More details on the website: ies.ncsu.edu/smarternc
Email: smarternc_info@ncsu.edu

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