



February 23, 2023

AZ Prototype, Inc.
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Agency: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce
Title: AZ Prototype Comments: CHIPS Statement of Interest Information Collection, OMB
Control Number: 0693-XXXX
Ref: FR Doc. 2023-02697

Response To Request for Information:
CHIPS Statement of Interest Information Collection

AZ Prototype Inc. commends the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce for coordinating efforts to gauge interest in the CHIPS program and enable the CHIPS Program Office (CPO) to plan for application review.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the information collection effort proposed in FR Doc. 2023-02697. We believe the activity is both timely and opportune: much of the semiconductor industry's supply capabilities are concentrated in Asia. With geopolitical tensions escalating, the urgent need to strengthen our country's inherent capabilities to manufacture, package, and secure semiconductor supply capacity is readily apparent.

Our specific comments are as follows:

- 1) While giving CPO time to plan and prepare, the process for an applicant to propose a CHIPS project remains unclear. Consequently, proposers have not been provided a corresponding ability to prepare and plan. We would encourage the CPO to address these specific points in its announcement:
 - a) The questions to be answered in the statement of interest form which were available for review did not include:
 - i) a way for respondents to indicate its socio-economic category (e.g., Women-Owned Small Business, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned, HUBZone, etc.)
 - ii) information on the method(s) by which the CPO will ensure the solicitation process creates inclusive and broadly shared opportunities for businesses and ensures measurable benefits to small and underrepresented businesses.
- 2) We would like the CPO to affirm its intention to post all announcements relating to the statement of interest collection activity, pre-application, and solicitations on SAM.gov.
- 3) We would like to ensure the CPO addresses security concerns associated with an invalid certificate associated with the URL (<https://applications.chips.gov>) for applications provided in the request for comment.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments and we look forward to continued involvement as this process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Debbie Nguyen

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