ASME DESIGN ENGINEERING DIVISION

2026 Request for Proposals: Special Initiatives

DESCRIPTION

The Design Engineering Division (DED) of ASME is requesting proposals from the DED Technical Committees (TCs) and Standing Committees (SCs) for new initiatives in 2026. The DED is looking for new and innovative ideas that have the potential to create new opportunities to engage the community, dramatically raise the visibility of the DED, and/or significantly increase participation in DED activities.

TOPIC AREAS

Proposals will be considered the following main topic areas (proposals can address one or more):

1. **Fostering community building and networking**: Conferences such as IDETC serve as important networking opportunities for researchers in the field and provide a venue for professional development. For scholars of all career stages, this space provides an essential venue for building deep and lasting connections and networks that contribute to a resilient and healthy research community. We invite proposals that seek to create novel and meaningful opportunities for community building and networking at the IDETC conference that result in increased value of attendance for both authors and non-author attendees.
2. **Increasing sustained engagement with ASME community**: While IDETC serves as an important networking opportunity, sustained engagement with these same communities throughout the year is limited, creating barriers to meaningful connection with colleagues beyond the context of the conference. We invite proposals that seek to create inclusive and sustainable engagement opportunities with the ASME research community throughout the year. Proposals should focus on broadening the scope of community reached by these initiatives and deepening ties with community through these engagement activities.
3. **Excellent proposals in other areas that are strongly beneficial to the DED will also be considered**.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following factors will be emphasized in assessing proposals:

- Proposals that **engage with external partners** (e.g., industry, government agencies, organizations, etc.) to accomplish its goals will be given special consideration. The specifics of the engagement should be appropriate to the scope of the activities proposed, and can include external partner participation in conference activities or matching sponsorship goals.
- We encourage proposals that integrate **novel activities with existing programs or infrastructure** currently existing within IDETC (e.g., showcase sessions, keynotes, etc.) to maximize impact.
- **Proposals that seek funding primarily to offset attendee registration costs or for activities with limited impact (e.g., poster sessions, panel sessions) are discouraged,** but the merits of each proposal will be considered based on the rationale and justification provided.

ELIGIBILITY

All proposals should be submitted with the endorsement of at least one Technical Committee (TC) or Special Committee (SC) affiliated with the DED. **Proposals from individuals not formally affiliated with a TC or SC are encouraged to apply**, and should reach out to the appropriate TC or SC to seek endorsement prior to submitting their proposal (see Appendix). Each TC or SC may submit no more than 2 individual proposals. Cost sharing from the TC is encouraged and will be considered in the evaluation process. DED may request that some proposals be supported via the ASME TEC Development Fund.

SIGNIFICANT DATES

Proposals Due: **April 6, 2026**
Funding Announcement anticipated: **April 30, 2026**

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Proposals are limited to five pages, and the ASME TEC Development Fund format should be used. Required content:

1. Proposal Title
2. Date of Submittal
3. Contact Information for Initiator
4. Sponsoring Technical Division (DED) and Technical or Special Committee. The proposal must be approved by the executive committee of the supporting TC/SC.
5. Description of Proposed Initiative, including an explanation of the uniqueness and benefits of the proposed initiative relative to current approaches, expected results, organization and team members, and a timeline. Proposals should also include a description of the outcomes and return on investment of any previous activities funded by DED special initiatives.
6. Total Revenues and Expenses budgeted (Include estimates for first three years of program – include historical information if appropriate)
7. Requested Funding Amount (Include estimates for first three years of program – include historical information if appropriate)
8. Strategic Technologies Addressed (Robotics, Bioengineering, Clean Energy, Manufacturing, Pressure Technology, etc.)
9. Common Conference Elements Addressed (ASME Strategic Technologies, Student/Early career Activity, Public Policy, Standards and Certifications, Diversity & Inclusion, Local Participation - Regional Section and Student Section operations)
10. Direct Return for ASME (Revenues, Sustainability, etc.) (Include estimates for first three years of program – include historical information if appropriate)
11. Indirect Return for ASME (Return on investment, etc)
12. Plan for sustaining the activities beyond the DED special initiative funding.
13. Describe any cost share to be provided by the TC/SC and/or other sources.

14. List of any previous DED special initiative awards and a description of the impact of that funding.
15. Other Comments
16. Attachments (including a detailed budget) (Include estimates for first three years of program – include historical information if appropriate)

Tips and Recommendations from the ASME TEC Development Fund:

1. Proposals should carry the endorsement of the corresponding Technical Division Executive Committee or associated conference committee, Research Committee or Technology Group.
2. Proposers are encouraged to engage multiple Technical Divisions and/or Sectors.
3. Proposers are encouraged to incorporate programming by cross-cutting Divisions (e.g., Management, Safety Engineering & Risk Analysis, and Technology & Society).
4. Proposers are encouraged to include matching contributions from division segregated accounts to maximize the impact of the development funding.
5. Proposals should demonstrate the likelihood for a direct or indirect return to ASME.
6. Example evaluation criteria to be considered by TEC Sector Council is included in Table 31.
7. Proposals should demonstrate diminishing need in long term for support and ability to be self-sustaining.

Questions and proposal submissions should be directed to:

DED Executive Committee TC Chair, Christine Toh (wdcmt8@jmu.edu)

DED Executive Committee Chair, Scarlett Miller (scarlettmiller@psu.edu)

APPENDIX

List of active DED Technical Committees (TC) and Special Committees (SI) and Contact Information:

Technical Committee (TC) and Special Committees (SI)	**Chair**	**Email**
Design Automation (DAC)	Chowdhury Souma	soumacho@buffalo.edu
Design Education (DEC)	Rahul S. Renu	rrenu@austincollege.edu
Design for Manufacturing and Life Cycle (DFMLC)	Dan Cooper	drcooper@umich.edu
Design Theory and Methodology (DTM)	Jinjuan She	jshe@miamioh.edu
Mechanisms and Robotics (M&R)	Anurag Paurwar	anurag.purwar@stonybrook.edu
Multibody Systems and Nonlinear Dynamics (MSND)	Sachin Goyal	sgoyal2@ucmerced.edu
Power Transmission and Gearing (PTG)	Wang, Yawen	yawen.wang@uta.edu
Reliability, Stress Analysis & Failure Prevention (RSAFP)	Erol Sancaktar	erol@uakron.edu
Vibration and Sound (TCVS)	Kathryn Matlack	kmatlack@illinois.edu
Vehicle Design (VDC)	Ole Balling	oba@mpe.au.dk
Broadening Participation (BPart)	Elizabeth Starkey & Ting Liao	ems413@psu.edu tliao@stevens.edu