The Network for Manufacturing Innovation: A “Tipping Point” in U.S. Research and Development Policy?

Thomas A. Hemphill, University of Michigan-Flint

ABSTRACT

In recent decades, the U.S. manufacturing sector has undergone a major decline in both employment levels and as a percentage of national Gross Domestic Product. The U.S. Congress recently passed the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act of 2014 authorizing the establishment of a national Network for Manufacturing Innovation with a primary purpose of improving this sector’s global competitiveness. While Democrats have traditionally favored an assertive industrial policy-type approach to the U.S manufacturing sector, the enactment of the RAMI Act is an important bipartisan “tipping point” for increased public policy intervention in U.S. advanced manufacturing research and development policy.

Keywords: Advanced manufacturing, Industrial policy, Innovation policy, McKinsey Global Institute, Network for Manufacturing Innovation