



Fifty Ways to Leave Your Competitiveness Woes Behind: A National Traded Sector Competitiveness Strategy

1. Create a nationwide network of at least 25 “Engineering and Manufacturing Institutes” performing applied R&D across a range of advanced technologies
2. Support the designation of at least 20 U.S. “manufacturing universities”
3. Increase federal support for Engineering Research Center (ERC) and Industry/ University Cooperative Research Center (I/UCRC) programs, and require a higher industry match for ERC funding
4. Create a Spurring Commercialization of Our Nation’s Research program (SCNR) to support university, state, and federal laboratory technology commercialization initiatives
5. Increase funding for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)
6. Create an “Innovation Voucher” program
7. Establish stronger university entrepreneurship metrics and use them to provide stronger incentives for universities to commercialize research
8. Expand usage of Title III of the Defense Production Act and increase funding for the Department of Defense Manufacturing Technology program to help rebuild the defense industrial base
9. Lower the U.S. effective corporate tax rate
10. Increase R&D tax credit generosity and make the R&D tax credit permanent
11. Make clear that process R&D qualifies for the R&D tax credit
12. Establish a 30 percent collaborative R&D tax credit for industry research undertaken in conjunction with universities, research institutes, national laboratories, or multi-firm consortia
13. Expand the R&D tax credit to cover expenditures for workforce training
14. Strengthen the domestic production deduction
15. Institute an investment tax credit on purchases of new capital equipment and software
16. Implement “patent boxes” to promote R&D commercialization
17. Expand foreign trade zones to include a value-added tax incentive
18. Better support and align programs to boost U.S. exports
19. Promote reshoring
20. Create global knowledge investment zones to attract foreign direct investment
21. Provide forgivable loans to companies supporting repatriated jobs to distressed/rural areas
22. Update the charter of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to address the realities of modern-age state capitalism
23. Review export control policies that inhibit U.S. exports

24. Develop a national trade strategy and increase funding for U.S. trade policymaking and enforcement agencies
25. Exclude mercantilists from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)
26. Ensure U.S. and multilateral foreign aid policies don't act as mercantilist enablers
27. Combat foreign currency manipulation
28. Encourage companies to bring WTO cases by allowing them to take a 25 percent tax credit for expenditures related to bringing WTO cases
29. Forge new trade agreements, including a high-standard Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and a Trans-Atlantic Partnership (TAP)
30. Fully fund a nationwide manufacturing skills standards initiative
31. Expand manufacturing vocational education programs at community colleges
32. Expand funding for NSF's Advanced Technological Education program
33. Provide federal funding for more science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) high schools
34. Create an NSF-Industry Ph.D. Fellows program
35. Expand and modify NSF's Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) program
36. Provide support for recent Ph.D. graduates to work with SME manufacturers
37. Expand high-skill immigration, particularly that focused on the traded sector
38. Create Manufacturing Reinvestment Accounts
39. Authorize the Ex-Im Bank to provide loan assistance to SMEs and to firms competing against subsidized foreign competitors
40. Transform Fannie Mae into an industrial bank
41. Shift the Small Business Administration's focus more toward traded-sector firms
42. Assist SMEs in traded sectors in obtaining access to credit, in part by creating a loan guarantee program
43. Form an Office of Innovation Review in OMB (i.e., an Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for Innovation)
44. Require OIRA to incorporate a "competitiveness screen" in its review of federal regulations
45. Increase the participation of industry in the formal federal rule-making process
46. Streamline regulatory compliance procedures for companies
47. Increase funding for key federal statistical agencies assessing traded sector competitiveness and create a national statistical agency
48. Create a new traded sector analysis unit within the federal government
49. Create a United States Economic Competitiveness Commission
50. Appoint at least one member of the Council of Economic Advisors whose background is in business or innovation, not economics