NEWSLETTER January - March 2024

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Promoting domestic advanced manufacturing growth to support the national defense and economic prosperity

Notable Events:

- **IU Student Pentagon Visit**, Washington, DC: April 26
- **MFG USA Network Meeting**, Washington, DC: April 30 - May 1
- **MSTP PMR**, Ft. Belvior, VA: April 30 - May 2
- **NDIA Manufacturing Division Meeting**, Washington, DC: May 2
- **DoD MII Spring Program Management Review**, Washington, DC: May 20-22
- **JDMTP Spring All-Hands**, Albany, NY: May 21 - 23
- **DoD ManTech Pentagon Demonstration Day and Network Meeting**, Washington, DC: June 4-6

Inside This Issue:

DoD ManTech Creates New Connections at POST 2024

Representatives and leaders from the Department of Defense Manufacturing Technology Program met with industry partners and U.S. allies at the Pacific Operational Science & Technology Conference in Honolulu, March 4-7, 2024. This ally-and partner-focused event provided DoD ManTech a platform to share information about its collaborative manufacturing technology projects that are vital for tackling industrial base challenges within the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) area of operations (AO).

Justin McRoberts, right, explains technology capabilities to Dr. Steven G. Wax, Acting Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Science and Technology in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, at the ManTech booth.

Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Heidi Shyu delivered the morning address, highlighting the critical importance of accelerating science and technology solutions via agile mechanisms like APFIT, RADR, DARPA, Office of Strategic Capital and the DoD Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, noting the urgency to turn ideas into capabilities. Shyu described the MIIs as driving innovation into industry, mentioning example projects such as biocement, domestic rubber sourcing and fire-resistant functional fibers.

ManTech Director Tracy Frost led a panel discussion about "Allied Partnerships and Investments: Where Science and Technology Meet Manufacturing to Secure the INDOPACOM Industrial Base." Frost, along with counterparts from Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Australia's Defence Science and Technology Group, highlighted current programs that are increasing their countries' buying power, capabilities, warfighter readiness, advanced manufacturing workforce, and supply chain security, resiliency and flexibility.

ManTech Director Tracy Frost, Masuo Kuremura, director of the Aerospace and Defense Industry Division at the Japan Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Dr. Dan Billing, program leader at the Health and Logistics Science and Technology Group, Australia Department of Defence held a panel discussion.

In the second ManTech-hosted panel, Deputy Director Keith DeVries led discussions about coordinated investments by the Joint Defense Manufacturing Technology Panel and Office of the Secretary of Defense ManTech programs and portfolios. The panel underscored ManTech's important role in meeting warfighter needs effectively and affordably through an overview of fiscal year 2024 goals and strategies, as well as how past and current projects identify and solve manufacturing challenges in the U.S. INDOPACOM AO.

At the ManTech exhibit booth the team showcased technology advancements and defense manufacturing collaborative projects sponsored by the service ManTech programs, Manufacturing Science & Technology Program and the nine DoD MIIs.

To read more about ManTech's participation at POST 2024 and the groundbreaking initiatives showcased, visit our website: Here

OSD ManTech Pursues New Approach to Investing: Introduces Challenges to Support Defense Industrial Base

OSD ManTech hosted representatives from five DoD MIIs and their member companies for an Organic Industrial Base (OIB) Modernization Challenge pitch event at the MxD MII facility in Chicago on February 7. This challenge and the 2023 Point-of-Need Manufacturing Challenge represent a deliberate push to create event opportunities designed to tackle specific advanced manufacturing issues head-on.

Following an October 2023 workshop to identify crucial technological needs, OSD ManTech initiated the OIB Modernization project call through the MIIs, set to offer up to $2.5 million in OSD-sponsored government funding to five MII-member winners. This drew 104 proposal submissions from member companies. Nine projects delivered their project pitches to a panel of OIB experts, industry leadership, and the OSD ManTech Director Tracy Frost, who evaluated them based on their projected positive impact across the 47 DoD-owned OIB sites.

By utilizing these types of challenges and integrating them into its strategy, OSD ManTech aims to remain at the forefront of advancing technology solutions. The DoD MIIs' public-private partnership model has proven effective in leveraging the assets of small- and medium-size businesses that have the vision and capability to solve today's industrial base problems.

Frost is confident these companies will effectively apply their technologies, leading to substantial and lasting improvements in the production, efficiency, and quality of life at various OIB sites and among their valued team members. The pitch event and subsequent initiatives are crucial steps toward improving the U.S. supply chain and enhancing national security readiness through cutting-edge technological advancements in manufacturing. ManTech will continue engaging MII member companies when proposals show promise, ensuring that valuable ideas are not overlooked.

Read more: Here

OSD ManTech is pleased to announce the winners of the challenge:

ORGANIC INDUSTRIAL BASE

MODERNIZATION CHALLENGE

WINNERS

ARM Institute, Aris Technology

Robotic Non-Contact 3D Inspection Replacing Hard Gaging

ARM Institute, Grid Raster Inc.

Extended Reality and AI-Assisted Paint Masking

ARM, Figure Engineering, Siemens, Lockheed Martin

Maskless Robotic Painting with Realtime Control

MxD, Anark

A Closed-loop Technical Data Exchange that Meets the OIB Where They Work

NextFlex, Aptima Inc

Cybersecure Data Compliance for Integrated Sensors and Shop Floor Digitization

JDMTP Welcomes a New Chair

The new calendar year ushered in a new chair for the Joint Defense Manufacturing Technology Panel. Defense Logistics Agency ManTech Principal, David Koch, assumed the position as of January 2024 succeeding Navy ManTech Principal, Neil Graf. The JDMTP, which includes the directors and senior managers, referred to as Principals, of each DoD ManTech Program including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Logistics Agency, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, has a three-year rotating schedule for the chair position.

Koch leads the Logistics Research and Development program at DLA, managing an annual budget valued at over $100 million. His experience maintaining oversight of programs focused on castings, forgings, batteries, additive manufacturing, military uniforms, combat rations, micro-electronics, energy, storage and distribution, among others is a valuable resource to DLA and the panel. Koch has served as DLA ManTech Principal for the last four years and is the first representative from DLA to serve as the JDMTP chair.

Koch is a veteran of the United States Air Force, receiving his commission in 1989 following his graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. He ultimately rose to the rank of Colonel before retiring in 2012 after 23 years of active-duty service, having served in a variety of positions in maintenance and logistics at the squadron, major command, and Headquarters Air Force levels.

During this time Koch also made his education a priority, earning three separate master's degrees in industrial/organizational psychology, logistics management, and national resource strategy.

Koch shared that the official appointment as the new JDMTP chair is a personal highlight of his career: "As DLA's first JDMTP chair, I will continue the mission to capitalize on joint service projects, increase engagement within the ManTech community and Defense Manufacturing Institutes, and provide solid oversight of key technology Subpanels and Technical Working Groups. As the needs of the nation continue to evolve, I will ensure that the JDMTP, and its members, pursue joint ManTech opportunities to accelerate the adoption of critical defense technologies to the warfighter, support supply chain resiliency, and empower the skilled workforce of tomorrow. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role."

He continued, "I want to thank my predecessor, Mr. Neil Graf, for the tremendous leadership he provided to the ManTech community over the past 3 years. During his tenure, we published a DoD Man Tech Strategic Plan, made significant improvement in identifying joint technology pursuit areas, and created strategic joint manufacturing planning initiatives that reflect the strategic goals of the DoD. I am looking forward to building on his amazing accomplishments during my tenure."

Since assuming the position Koch and the DLA team have worked with JDMTP Facilitator Joe Barniak, and the OSD support staff to build upon the improvements to the process flows and efficiencies of the JDMTP, instituting an action item tracker and a mid-month JDMTP update notification. Koch and team also collaborated with his fellow Principals to develop, approve, and implement the FY 2024 goals. These goals are established at the beginning of each FY by the chair to help guide the Principals' objectives for the year. As Koch settles into his role he continues to look towards the future and how the JDMTP can best address the critical technology and manufacturing needs within the DoD industrial base.

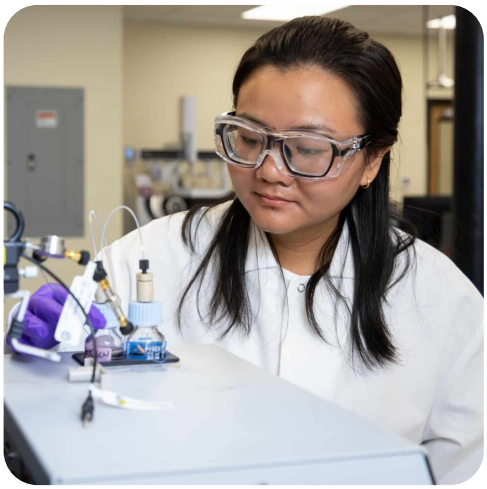
To learn more about the JDMTP, visit our website.

MANUFACTURING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

OSD ManTech is building national manufacturing ecosystems and growing the workforce, through scaling up education best practices, promoting registered apprenticeship and professional development opportunities, calls for proposals, and STEM learning programs. OSD ManTech programming emphasizes the importance of increased access to mentorship and hands-on learning initiatives by bridging skill gaps to fill advanced manufacturing jobs with a qualified workforce.

DoD ManTech Supports White House Executive Order on Registered Apprenticeships

The OSD M-EWD team supports the Biden-Harris administration Executive Order on Scaling and Expanding the Use of Registered Apprenticeships in Industries and the Federal Government and Promoting Labor-Management Forums, released in January. The Executive Order (EO) is designed to spur hiring and retention of a diverse and highly trained workforce that will better prepare advanced manufacturing industry leaders of tomorrow.



Registered apprenticeships are an important vehicle for companies to build the right workforce and this EO is will encourage them to bridge existing skill gaps across the nation. Apprenticeships are one of the best ways to expose interested students and workers to learning industry specific skills. Through this executive order, more than $440 million has been invested to expand the capacity of the Registered Apprenticeship system, supporting the education and training needs of more than one million apprentices across the country.

The EO calls out the 17 Manufacturing USA institutes sponsored by the Departments of Commerce, Defense and Energy, which collectively comprise over 2,500 member organizations across the nation and engage around 106,000 people annually in advanced manufacturing training. Manufacturing USA recently published its national roadmap to develop advanced manufacturing technologies, grow the advanced manufacturing workforce, and connect workers to good jobs in advanced manufacturing: Revitalizing America's Manufacturing Workforce.

Through the EO, DoD's MII BioFabUSA developed and launched the first-ever Biofabrication Technician Registered Apprenticeship Program, as well as a complementary Advanced Manufacturing Registered Apprenticeship Program, both approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. BioFabUSA focuses on the advancement of manufacturing in regenerative medicine, and these apprenticeships train the workforce who will manufacture cell-based products, as well as the workforce who will manufacture the enabling technologies that make possible the scalable, automated manufacture of cell-based products.

BioFabUSA's programs provide apprentices, including transitioning servicemembers, military spouses, and veterans, with the skills and knowledge essential to earn industry-recognized credentials and advance in a career in healthcare innovation.

The first cohort of Biofabrication Technician Apprentices has now completed two months of classroom and hands-on instruction and is engaged in 12 months of on-the-job training with BioFabUSA and its members, preparing them for successful careers in biofabrication. In complement, a first cohort of Advanced Manufacturing Apprentices will begin 300 hours of technical instruction, integrated with on-the-job training in May 2024.

Read more: Here and here.

MANUFACTURING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

BioMADE Facilitates M-EWD Project Call Collaboration for Students

To support Manufacturing Education and Workforce Development ecosystem needs, the DoD MII BioMADE continues to drive workforce development and sustainable bioindustrial and biomanufacturing technology-centered programs and solutions through upcoming funding efforts and project calls. Current projects underway with collaborations across industry and academia, include:

- Benchmarking Synthetic Biology Product Development Project (at University of California, Berkley)
- Educating Current and Future Bioindustrial Workforce Course Project (Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center, at North Carolina State University)

These programs are designed to teach biotechnology fundamentals, elevate cross-industry collaboration, and benchmark best practices for bioindustrial manufacturing, thus enhancing education and workforce development best practices for advanced manufacturing industry leaders of tomorrow.

Read more: Here

ARM Commits to Upskilling Displaced Workers Through Advanced Manufacturing Bootcamps

Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Dislocated Worker (DW) Program, the DoD MII Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Institute has partnered with the Department of Labor to upskill and subsequently help displaced workers throughout Pittsburgh by hosting a series of two-week career discovery manufacturing boot camps. ARM completed requests for proposals in February 2024, to form partnerships with experts who can design, develop, and teach manufacturing and robotics rapid training, which will reinforce local and regional efforts to bolster workforce development and education.

With the DW Program currently underway through September 2024, these boot camps are aimed to provide hands-on learning, offer industry-relevant training, and inspire individuals to pursue an advanced manufacturing career.

Read more: Here

NextFlex Aims to Raise $5M Through Women in STEM Education (WISE) Initiative

DoD MII NextFlex is determined to meet its $5 million fundraising goal to support women in STEM education through its NextFlex Learning Program. This initiative aims to promote confidence and gender equality representation in STEM-based fields. To reach this goal, NextFlex is currently developing the Women in STEM Education (WISE) program, to promote increased skill mentorship and leadership exposure to women in college or at middle or later stages of their careers.

This program seeks to raise awareness of gender equity gaps across STEM fields and aligns with NextFlex's broader mission of diversifying and strengthening future manufacturing workforce generations.

Read more: Here

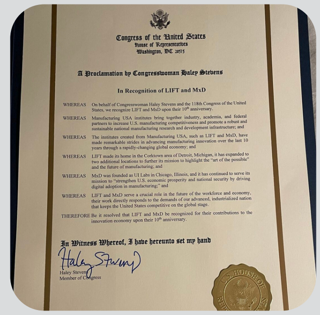
MANUFACTURING INNOVATION INSTITUTES HIGHLIGHTS

MxD and LIFT Celebrate Joint 10-Year Anniversary

DoD MIIs MxD and LIFT, based in Chicago and Detroit, respectively, are celebrating a decade of strengthening the vitality of the American manufacturing sector and growing the nation's defense industrial base in 2024. To commemorate this milestone, representatives and leadership from both MIIs and government met for an anniversary event at the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington. Guest speakers Senator Gary Peters, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Senator Dick Durbin, along with Under Secretary of Defense (R&E) Heidi Shyu thanked and congratulated the institute representatives.

Shyu said, "America's defense industrial base is only as strong as the cutting-edge companies that supply it, and we want to thank MxD and LIFT for their unwavering mission to strengthen these critical supply chains at every step. Their work has had tangible, impactful benefits to U.S. defense operations, and will continue to be crucial going forward."

Since its launch, MxD has collaborated with its nearly 300 members on a portfolio of close to 180 research and development, cybersecurity, and workforce development projects across 35 states. Its workforce development arm, MxD Learn, has supported more than 250,000 learners, including K-12 students, post-secondary students, current workers, and educators through online learning courses, workshops, projects, and visits. And MxD Cyber has provided thousands of U.S. manufacturers a unified and systematic approach to securing their operations by providing the tools, protocols, skills, and information they need to undertake a secure digital transformation.

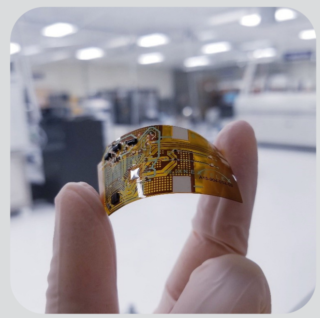


LIFT has evolved over the last 10 years to become the national advanced materials MII, working at the intersection of advanced materials, manufacturing processes, systems engineering, and talent development. LIFT has developed an ecosystem of more than 340 members, executed more than 150 technology and talent development programs and impacted more than 250,000 students, including providing advanced manufacturing certification opportunities for thousands of adult learners. LIFT has also leaned into its national mandate with a satellite facility in Puerto Rico (see below) and plans for another in Florida.

These success stories underscore the pivotal roles of MxD and LIFT in driving American advanced manufacturing forward and delivering impactful solutions to complex defense challenges. As the partnership between DoD ManTech and these institutes continues to thrive, we anticipate further breakthroughs that will strengthen the nation's defense capabilities and contribute to economic prosperity.

Read more about the 10-year celebration event on our website: Here

From Manufacturing USA: Reimagining Industrial Energy Use with Digital Technology



The NextFlex Manufacturing Innovation Institute (MII) collaborates with industry and academia to develop cutting-edge technologies that drive sustainability and combat climate change, through the DoD MIIs and Manufacturing USA networks.

NextFlex is revolutionizing industrial energy use with digital technology, transforming the landscape of flexible hybrid electronics. With the ability to embed electronics into flexible materials, NextFlex achieves compact, lightweight designs with increased processing power. This innovation leads to extended transmission ranges, reduced manufacturing costs, and sustainable solutions like biodegradable medical applications. Imagine a credit card-sized Electro-Cardiogram monitor, printed on biodegradable material, offering 24-hour heart monitoring via a mobile device! NextFlex is also pioneering roll-to-roll processing with built-in electronics for high-mix, high-volume production, ensuring efficient and continuous operations.

Read more about how the Manufacturing USA network is "Reimagining Industrial Energy Use With Digital Technology" on our website: Here

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
MANUFACTURING INNOVATION INSTITUTES

MANUFACTURING INNOVATION INSTITUTES HIGHLIGHTS

Expanding Horizons: LIFT Establishes New Advanced Manufacturing Hub in Puerto Rico

William Miranda Torres, Mayor of Caguas, Puerto Rico, signs the lease for the new advanced manufacturing facility alongside Nigel Francis, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, and other representatives.

In February, LIFT MII signed the lease on a 28,000 square foot facility located at the Lincoln Plaza in Caguas, Puerto Rico as a satellite of its Detroit headquarters.

LIFT, as a technology accelerator, is driving advancements that benefit both the national economy and national security. Through its network of member organizations, LIFT expedites the transition of technologies—such as hypersonic materials development and lightweight armor systems—from conception to commercial industry and into the hands of the warfighter. Puerto Rico's manufacturing sector, representing nearly half of the island's gross domestic product, boasts a diverse landscape encompassing biotechnology, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, agroecology, aerospace, electronics, computing, engineering, construction, and apparel. With a rich manufacturing heritage, Puerto Rico continues to contribute significantly to various industries, leveraging its expertise and resources to drive economic growth and innovation.

"As a national manufacturing innovation institute, we have a national mandate to support manufacturers and their workforce wherever we can, and that includes opening this new satellite facility in Puerto Rico," said Nigel Francis, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director. "There is no doubt that innovation is 'place based,' which means we not only plan to bring the support of our existing ecosystem to support Puerto Rican manufacturers but are developing an engaged ecosystem of local manufacturers and help advance their technologies towards commercialization."

Through expansion of its footprint to Puerto Rico, LIFT not only broadens its reach but also creates new opportunities for wider collaboration and knowledge exchange for the entire MII network.

Read more on our website: Here

Continued Defense Manufacturing Partnership with ARM Institute Secures Long-Term Commitment to Advanced Robotics

The DoD recently reaffirmed its commitment to advancing defense manufacturing through a continuation agreement with the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing institute. This agreement extends ARM Institute's funding as a national MII for the next five years, with an additional investment of $35.4 million through 2028. With the option for further renewal after 2028, this partnership underscores the enduring commitment to fostering innovation in advanced robotics for defense applications.

ARM plays an integral role in the regional and national robotics ecosystem. Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro visited Mill 19, the ARM Institute's Pittsburgh headquarters shared with Carnegie Mellon University, January 31, to highlight the importance of ARM's initiatives in bolstering Pennsylvania's manufacturing sector, aligning with his state's economic development strategy, "Pennsylvania Gets It Done." During the visit, ARM Institute CEO Ira Moskowitz emphasized the institute's mission of being a transformative resource for small- and medium-sized manufacturers in the southwestern Pennsylvania region dedicated to empowering local manufacturers and enhancing workforce skills in robotics and AI technologies. You can watch the recorded livestream of the event here.

Ira Moskowitz, CEO of the ARM Institute, center, delivers remarks during a press event at Mill 19, the institute's shared Pittsburgh headquarters with Carnegie Mellon University.

As ARM Institute continues to spearhead groundbreaking initiatives in robotics and AI, its enduring partnership with the DoD reinforces its pivotal role in shaping the future of defense manufacturing.

Read more about the agreement: Here
Read more about the Governor's visit: Here

MSTP/JDMTP HIGHLIGHTS

MSTP Advancing Through the Proposal Process

The OSD Manufacturing Science and Technology Program (MSTP) is closing in on notifying the awardees of its annual call for proposals. The call, released in November, is centered around four Focused Investment Areas (FIA): Hypersonic Radome Manufacturing, Thin Film Electro-Optics, Toolless Robotic Metalworking, and High-Speed Munition Electronic Systems.

Each year, MSTP determines its FIAs by gathering information from a multitude of sources from across the DoD to assess where its investments would generate the most impact. This includes, but is not limited to, White House initiatives, congressional interest items, the Under Secretary of Defense's critical technology areas, Joint Technology Pursuit Areas stemming from the Joint Defense Manufacturing Technology Program (JDMTP), as well as inputs from across the DoD enterprise and defense industrial base. As the needs of the nation evolve, so does the way MSTP evaluates where its dollars should be allocated. The FIAs of this year's call reflect MSTP's commitment to accelerating the manufacturability and availability of hypersonics components and the continued development of advanced manufacturing capabilities.

MSTP maintains a regular schedule in calling for proposals. The call is released in the fall, with deadline for submissions in the winter months. From spring to early summer, the MSTP conducts "Phase 1" and "Phase 2" reviews, first internally, and then in person, to determine an appropriate number of finalists based on potential impact, alignment with the FIAs, and available budget. Final deliberations and award notifications occur in mid-summer. This cycle, there were a total of 43 submissions, 16 of which progressed to the next stage. Currently, phase 2 eligible submitters are strengthening their proposals by soliciting joint service/agency contributions and fine tuning their execution plans as they prepare to present their proposals to the team in-person during the Phase 2 review in June. Following the June briefs, the MSTP team will make their final decisions and inform awardees July 17.

Click for more information on the MSTP call for proposal, here or visit the individual service/agency pages to review their unique call for proposal processes, here.

Recent Updates & Events

MSTP-Indiana University Student Partnership Earns Recognition for Innovation

A team of graduate students mentored by MSTP won first prize in the Indiana University Kelley School of Business's Field Consulting Project course for their work to improve the process flow and efficiencies for the MSTP annual proposal call. The team will be recognized by Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering Heidi Shyu at the Pentagon on April 26. For more information, click here.

Multiple Programs Converge at Hypersonics Review in Washington

OSD ManTech recently hosted its semi-annual hypersonics review in Washington, DC. The event was an opportunity for stakeholders from MSTP and the MIIs to come together to discuss current updates and upcoming events. All OSD ManTech investments in hypersonics were represented and PMs provided insights to the ongoing investments in this critical technology area. Representatives from OUSD A&S Industrial Base Analysis & Sustainment Program and the OUSD R&E Principal Director, Hypersonics (PD-H) office were able to attend and participated in the open forum discussion. Gathering collectively helped the group identify common struggles and roadblocks while also exchanging best practices to help mitigate them.

Coming Soon

26 April : IU Student Pentagon Visit
30 Apr - 2 May: MSTP PMR, FT. Belvoir, VA
21 May - 23 May: JDMTP Spring All-Hands, Albany, NY
4 June: Pentagon Demonstration Day
5 June: JDMTP & MII Networking Meeting

Promoting domestic advanced manufacturing growth to support the national defense and economic prosperity

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Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD(R&E))
https://www.CTO.mil
OUSD (R&E) YouTube

ManTech Drives Defense Manufacturing Resilience in Alignment with DoD Strategic Vision

Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks delivered a compelling address at the Reagan Institute's National Security Innovation Base Summit at the Pentagon in March, reinforcing the connections between America's military prowess and the resilience of its defense industrial base. Hicks highlighted the critical juncture facing the nation's defense manufacturing landscape, emphasizing how challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions demonstrate the need for agile, innovative solutions. OSD ManTech portfolios, named in both the National Defense Industrial Strategy and the National Defense Science and Technology Strategy, are answering her call for unified action among stakeholders through targeted investments.

Since the issuance of the supply chain-focused executive order (EO 14017) in February 2021, the DoD has obligated over $893 million using the Defense Production Act for investments in five critical sectors: kinetic capabilities, microelectronics, energy storage and batteries, strategic and critical materials, and castings and forgings. The department has spent billions on the industrial base and sought to expand production, in addition to allocating billions in research and development to ensure service members are never at a disadvantage. OSD ManTech investments accelerate forward-looking initiatives aimed at developing advanced manufacturing processes, techniques, and equipment that employ leap-ahead technologies for the warfighter.

The NDIS, released by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment in January, outlines a path that builds on recent progress while addressing remaining gaps and potential shortfalls, and recognizes that America's economic security and national security are mutually reinforcing. OSD ManTech's role in advancing manufacturing processes, enhancing equipment for weapon systems, and promoting workforce readiness directly supports the NDIS goals. Additionally, OSD ManTech plays a crucial role in supporting the Defense S&T Strategy, especially through its public-private partnerships that are growing manufacturing ecosystems across the country.

Hicks' advocacy for bolstering the industrial base, coupled with OSD ManTech's alignment with the NDIS and S&T Strategy, reflects a shared commitment to maintaining America's technological superiority in an era defined by strategic competition. As stakeholders collaborate to navigate the complexities of the modern defense landscape, initiatives championed by Hicks and executed through OSD ManTech are vital for safeguarding the nation's security and prosperity. This unified approach positions OSD ManTech as a catalyst for change within the defense manufacturing landscape.

Read more about Hicks' address to reaffirm commitment to industrial base solutions and the NDIS on our website: Here and here.

About the DoD ManTech Program

The DoD ManTech Program, created in 1956, is composed of the Military Service and DoD Agency (or "Component") investment programs operated out of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Logistics Agency, and Office of the Secretary of Defense. The OSD ManTech Office is responsible for administering the DoD ManTech Program by providing central guidance and direction to the Component ManTech Programs. Along with providing oversight to DoD ManTech, the OSD ManTech Office manages three investment portfolios: the Manufacturing Science & Technology Program, DoD Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, and the Manufacturing Education and Workforce Development Program.

The nine DoD MIIs are proud members of Manufacturing USA, the network of 17 institutes sponsored by the Departments of Commerce, Defense, and Energy.