

The MMEC Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Gold Jacket to Advance the Development of a Microelectronics National Center of Excellence in Springfield, OH.

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The MMEC is excited to announce the signing of a MOU with Gold Jacket to convert the One East Main Street property in Springfield, Ohio, into a Microelectronics Center of Excellence, with the goal of serving the area's Workforce Development (WFD) needs through coordinated research and educational curriculum. The Springfield Microelectronics Center of Excellence will provide a collaborative WFD and educational environment in partnership with several of the academic institutions in the area including Central State University (CSU), Clark State College, and Wilberforce University. MMEC will provide overall operational support for the project and coordination between academic, industry, and federal stakeholders. The One East Main Street property is ideally located between all three academic partners and strategically in-route between Cincinnati, Dayton, and Columbus. This project aims to bring resources and WFD opportunities to the Springfield community and be a catalyst to revitalizing the downtown corridor.

Gold Jacket, in partnership with the national non-profit, HomeStrong USA, has hopes for One East Main Street to be more than a transaction. "This is the kind of project Gold Jacket is proud to have in its portfolio," said Vernon Marrow, CEO of Gold Jacket. "In the real estate world, it is difficult to take on projects without clear return to our investors. The Springfield Microelectronics Center of Excellence has the potential for a double bottom line benefit. This project has the potential to have a huge social return resulting in job creation and economic development, as well as long-term financial rewards for all parties involved. We are committed to seeing this through and partnering with key stakeholders in the region to make this a reality."

"We are excited to bring our operational expertise and ability to secure and execute sponsored research and WFD programs to the Gold Jacket project," said Jackie Janning-Lask, MMEC CEO. "This is an ambitious project and agenda that will require the support of both public and private investment to take hold and have the desired impact on the community."

Together, the team is pursuing state support and grant funding opportunities such as the Vibrant Communities Grant and National Science Foundation (NSF) Engines. Under NSF Engines, MMEC, CSU, Gold Jacket and many other regional partners are proposing the "Ohio Cyber Trust and Assurance Network Engine" (OCTANE) NSF Engine. If funded, the OCTANE activity will fuel regional workforce development and a wide-range of economic opportunities. The OCTANE project has received enthusiastic support from state and local leadership economic groups such as the Greater Springfield Partnership, JobsOhio, the Dayton Development Coalition, and the local Springfield community.

About the MMEC

MMEC leads the acceleration of microelectronic technologies and delivers solutions to establish a trusted and resilient domestic supply chain. The MMEC is the premier collaborative, public-private ecosystem, that engages broadly across innovative partners in industry, academia and government to rapidly advance defense and commercial applications. This unique environment empowers members to discover new technologies, share capabilities, develop a skilled workforce and launch groundbreaking innovation into scalable commercial production for the benefit of National Security and economic dominance.

About GOLD JACKET

Gold Jacket is a national real estate investment, development, facilities and energy services company founded by Emmitt Smith, Cris Carter, and Don Cogsville. Formed as a joint venture with expertise across the real estate value chain, Gold Jacket has a combined track record of over \$2 billion in real estate transactions with institutional investors and clients.

About HOMESTRONG USA

HomeStrong USA is a nonprofit community development organization with a mission to create, grow, and sustain healthy communities across the nation through innovative housing opportunities, comprehensive education and counseling, and community and economic development.

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