

Air Force Research Laboratory and State of Ohio Sign MOU to Strengthen U.S. Microelectronics Leadership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Beaver Creek, Ohio June 17, 2025 – The MMEC proudly announces its support of a newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and the State of Ohio. This agreement marks a major step toward strengthening America's leadership in microelectronics by fostering collaboration between federal, state, and regional stakeholders.

The MOU sets a strategic framework for aligning AFRL's defense technology initiatives with Ohio's growing high-tech ecosystem. The MMEC, with more than 500 member organizations in the microelectronics industry, will play a supporting role in coordinating, facilitating, and accelerating this collaboration across government, defense, academia, and commercial sectors.

"MMEC was created to ensure that innovation and national security move forward together," said Matt Casto, MMEC CTO. "By supporting this partnership between AFRL and the State of Ohio, we're helping to deliver on that mission - building a stronger, more secure microelectronics future for the nation."

Highlights of the MOU:

- **Shared Science and Technology Goals:** The agreement encourages cooperative research, infrastructure development, and innovation aligned with national defense and economic growth objectives.
- **Economic and Workforce Development:** Ohio will coordinate with AFRL on job creation, STEM outreach, and educational initiatives to support a next-generation microelectronics workforce.
- **Sustainable Semiconductor Ecosystem:** A joint focus on secure, scalable microelectronics manufacturing—supported by MMEC's regional leadership—will strengthen domestic supply chains and accelerate lab-to-fab-to-mission innovation.
- **Emerging Technology Collaboration:** The parties will explore partnerships in AI, autonomous systems, advanced materials, and resilient communications—critical areas for future warfighting and commercial competitiveness.

MMEC's role includes supporting coordination between state and federal efforts, managing collaboration between industry and academic partners, and ensuring that regional capabilities are aligned with national priorities. MMEC will also help bridge efforts between AFRL's defense-driven research and Ohio's economic development initiatives, such as Intel's semiconductor facilities and Anduril's defense manufacturing operations.

"The partnership between AFRL and the State of Ohio is exactly the kind of cooperation the country needs right now," said Jackie Janning-Lask, CEO of MMEC. "With MMEC's support, we're well-positioned to translate scientific innovation into real-world capabilities that strengthen our military and our economy."

During the press conference on June 2nd, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine stated, "This unified approach is more than a strategic advantage - it is a national necessity. In a world defined by technological competition, the United States must lead in key areas like artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber security, and a resilient supply chain," said Governor DeWine. "The technologies developed at the Air Force Research Laboratory will impact our national security for decades to come, and Ohio is pleased to closely partner with the lab to advance these technologies with innovation and speed."

"Ohio is not just any state - it's a powerhouse of innovation, a hub of technological expertise, and a vital partner in our national security ecosystem," stated Brig. Gen. Bartolomei at the June 2nd press conference. "This MOU is about

solidifying a commitment to leveraging the incredible talent and resources that exist within Ohio to accelerate the development of critical technologies."

Quarterly meetings, shared infrastructure planning, and regular exchanges of research priorities will help guide this partnership. With MMEC providing the connective tissue, AFRL and the State of Ohio can better align resources, streamline efforts, and maximize the impact of their shared initiatives.

As the global race for technological leadership intensifies, this collaboration, powered by MMEC's national network, will ensure the U.S. remains at the forefront of microelectronics innovation and defense capability.

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.

For more information on the June 2nd signing visit: <https://governor.ohio.gov/media/news-and-media/governor-dewine-air-force-research-laboratory-commander-sign-memorandum-of-understanding>

For MMEC inquiries, contact: Karsten Olson, MMEC (509) 869-2846 kolson@mmeconsortium.org