

# DAY 1 AGENDA

Updated: 13 September 2024

**8:00 DOORS OPEN + REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

**9:00 OPENING REMARKS**

Join us for opening remarks by Congresswoman Betty McCollum and ARI's CEO, Dave Roberts.



**DAVE ROBERTS**  
CEO at ARI



**BETTY MCCOLLUM**  
U.S. Congresswoman

**9:15 A VIEW FROM DOD LEADERSHIP**

· Invited: Dr. Brett Seidle, RDA Principal Civilian Deputy

**9:50 INSIGHTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS ON THE MIDWEST'S LANDSCAPE**

The Midwest, also referred to as the new Silicon Valley, is known for its pivotal role in shaping the Midwest's economic future. This panel brings together distinguished elected officials from across the Midwest to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities facing this region. These leaders will provide insights into critical defense related innovation policies and strategies. Join us as we explore how Midwest values and leadership are influencing the future of the Midwest.



**ANDREW KOSSACK**  
EVP, Partnerships & General Counsel



**BETTY MCCOLLUM**  
U.S. Congresswoman

**10:30 INTRODUCTION TO EXPO HALL OPENING + NETWORKING BREAK**

**11:10 MIDWEST GOVERNMENT LABS: INNOVATION, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This panel will bring together a comprehensive DOD view from federal lab leadership to explore the government laboratory role in driving scientific discovery, technological advancement, and public policy supporting the Midwest defense coalition.



**DR. KYLE WERNER**  
Deputy Technical Director at NSWC Crane

**OTHERS INVITED:**

- Panelist: Edgardo Santiago Maldonado, Hypersonics Directorate, AFRL/RQH
- Panelist: Alfred Grein, SES, Panelist, CVSC
- Panelist: J.T. Elder, SES, Director of The Architecture & Engineering Group, NGA

**12:00 KEYNOTE & FIRESIDE CHAT WITH VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE**

**12:15**



**MIKE PENCE**  
Vice President



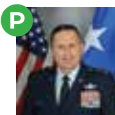
**NATHAN FELTMAN**  
CEO & Owner of Indianapolis Business Journal (IBJ)

**1:00 MIDWEST NATIONAL GUARD LANDSCAPE: INNOVATION, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES**

This panel will bring together a comprehensive view from National Guard leadership to explore their role in driving innovation, technological advancement, and public policy supporting the Midwest Guard coalition.



**BRIG. GEN. JUSTIN MANN**  
Indiana National Guard



**MAJ. GEN. BRYAN TEFF**  
Mobilization Assistant to the Combatant Commander, NORAD, U.S. Northern Command

**1:40 EXPO HALL NETWORKING BREAK**

**2:00 KEYNOTE FROM KEITH DEVRIES, OSD MANTECH**

This keynote will explore how the OSD ManTech program is reducing the acquisition and supportability costs of defense weapon systems and reducing manufacturing and repair cycle times across the life cycles of such systems.



**KEITH DEVRIES**  
DoD Manufacturing Technologies at OUSD R&E

**2:30 MIDWEST DEFENSE MANUFACTURING: INNOVATIONS, CHALLENGES, AND STRATEGIC IMPACTS**

This panel aims to discuss the latest advancements, challenges, and strategic approaches in Midwest defense manufacturing, while discussing how innovation can enhance national security need and maintain technological superiority.



**JERRY HENDRIX**  
Senior Fellow at Sagamore Institute



**BERARDINO BARATTA**  
CEO at MxD



**JOHN WILCZYNSKI**  
Executive Director at America Makes

**3:20 EXPO HALL NETWORKING BREAK**

**3:45 INSIGHTS AND INNOVATIONS: A FIRESIDE CHAT ON NAVIGATING DOD INNOVATION**

This panel will explore topics impacting defense innovation such as strategic initiatives, emerging technologies, and navigating acquisition paths which are shaping the future of DOD programs.



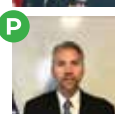
**CHRIS THELEN**  
Chief Scientist at AFRL



**JEN THABET**  
Program Director for SBPO at DARPA



**DR. MICHAEL POLLOCK**  
Department Head of CSISRT at ONR



**MITCHELLE WATHEN**  
PM/EE/COR Army Future Commands at DEVCOM-ARL

**4:35 DAY ONE CLOSING REMARKS**



**MICHELLE GIUDA**  
CEO at Krach Institute for Tech Diplomay

**5:00 NETWORKING RECEPTION**

# DAY 2 AGENDA

Updated: 13 September 2024

## 8:00 DOORS OPEN + REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

## 9:00 OPENING REMARKS

Join us for opening remarks by Dr. Angie Lewis, SES, NSWC Crane Technical Director, where the stage will be set for an engaging and insightful discussion on the future of innovation in the Midwest.



**DR. ANGIE LEWIS, SES**  
Technical Director at  
NSWC Crane

## 9:15 FIRESIDE CHAT WITH JASON RATHJE, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF STRATEGIC CAPITAL

This keynote explores how the Office of Strategic Capital (OSC) aims to use the United States' comparative advantages in capital markets and economic competition to crowd in capital for the critical technology supply chains needed by the DoD.



**DAVE ROBERTS**  
CEO at ARI



**DR. JASON RATHJE**  
Director at Office of  
Strategic Capital

## 9:45 BRIDGING CAPITAL AND INNOVATION: HOW VENTURE CAPITAL IS SHAPING DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY

The panel aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how venture capital investments and programming can effectively support and shape the future of defense technology.



**RAJ SHARMA**  
CEO of Public  
Spend Forum



**ANNETTE FINSTERBUSCH**  
Strategic Advisor for Technology,  
Innovation & Partnerships at NSF



**LORIN SELBY**  
Rear Admiral (Ret.) & General Partner  
at Mare Liberum Capital Partners



**MAGGIE BRICKERMAN**  
Partner at Gener8tor

## 10:35 EXPO HALL NETWORKING BREAK

## 11:00 KEYNOTE FROM DEIRDRE HANDFORD, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NATCAST

This keynote will dive into the NSTC mission of serving as the focal point for research and engineering throughout the semiconductor ecosystem, advancing disruptive innovation to provide U.S. leadership in the industries of the future.



**DEIRDRE HANDFORD**  
Chief Executive Director  
of NATCAST

## 11:30 MICROELECTRONICS MOVEMENT: THE ROLE OF CHIPS IN DRIVING THE ON-SHORING OF A NATIONAL SECURITY NEED WITHIN THE MICROELECTRONICS DOMAIN

The panel will explore the latest advancements in CHIPS technology, examine the challenges faced by the microelectronics industry, and discuss future trends shaping this dynamic field.



**BEN GRIFFIN**  
SVP of Research  
Partnerships at ARI



**ALLEN TILLERSON**  
Senior Advisor for  
CHIPS Program Office



**BRYAN SMITH**  
Microelectronics Commons  
Execution Advisor, NSWC Crane

## 12:20 LUNCH & DAY 2 KEYNOTE: REMARKS BY MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER JOSH BIELL



**JOSH BIELL**  
Motivational Speaker

## 1:30 SESSION INTRO FROM DOUG BECK, DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT (DIU)

This session will explore how DIU and other federal innovation enabling programs strengthen national security by accelerating the adoption of commercial technology throughout the military and bolstering our allied and national security innovation bases.

- Invited: Doug Beck, Director at DIU and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Defense

## 1:40 DRIVING TRANSFORMATION: THE ROLE OF DIU IN ACCELERATING DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY

This panel will explore the pivotal role of the (DIU) in accelerating technological advancements within the defense sector.



**MIKE DODD**  
Principal at NSIC



**JIM RABUCK**  
Regional Director  
at DIU



**JACK RYAN**  
Senior Program Manager of  
Energy Portfolio at DIU

## 2:20 BREAK

## 2:30 DRIVING DEFENSE INNOVATION: KEY ENABLERS FOR NEXT-GENERATION SOLUTIONS

This panel will explore the critical enablers driving innovation in defense technology and strategy. Key leaders will discuss how emerging technologies, public-private partnerships and experimentations are accelerating advancements, enhancing operational efficiency, and national security.



**COURTNEY ZAUGG**  
Co-Founder of  
VentureVets



**ALYSSA ROBERTSON**  
NSIN Midwest  
Regional Director



**ROBERT GAMBERG**  
CAPT. U.S. Navy (Ret)  
Silent Swarm PM

## 3:45 COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION: HOW UNIVERSITIES ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

This panel will explore how universities in the Midwest are evolving their approach to innovation by adopting new models and forging collaborative partnerships across institutions. As hubs of research and development, universities are uniquely positioned to drive cutting-edge advancements in science, technology, policy, and state-of-the-art capabilities to support national security and defense efforts.



**MICHAEL BILYEU**  
Technical Program  
Manager at ARI



**BECKY PETERSON**  
Director of Lurie Nanofabrication  
Facility at University of Michigan

### OTHERS INVITED:

- Panelist: University of Notre Dame
- Panelist: Purdue University
- Panelist: UIUC

## 4:15 DAY TWO CLOSING REMARKS