

DAY 1 AGENDA

Updated: 11 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 Principle 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.



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.

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DR. KYLE WERNER
Deputy Technical Director
at NSWC Crane

OTHERS INVITED:

- Panelist: Edgardo Santiago Maldonado, Hypersonics Directorate, AFRL/RQH
- Panelist: Alfred Grein, SES, Panelist, GVSC
- 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

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.

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BRIG. GEN. JUSTIN MANN
Indiana National Guard

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MAJ. GEN. BRYAN TEFF
USAF, NORMAD-MI

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.

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JERRY HENDRIX
Senior Fellow at
Sagamore Institute

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BERARDINO BARATTA
CEO at MxD

OTHERS INVITED:

- Panelist: John Wilczynski from 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.

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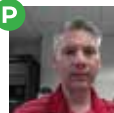
JEN THABET
Program Director
for SBPO at DARPA

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**DR. MICHAEL
POLLOCK**
Department Head
of C5ISRT at ONR

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MITCH WATHEN
ATIE Team Project
Manager at ARL

4:35 DAY ONE CLOSING REMARKS

· Invited: Michelle Giuda, CEO at Krach Institute for Tech Diplomay

5:00 NETWORKING RECEPTION

DAY 2 AGENDA

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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



REAR ADMIRAL (RET.) LORIN SELBY
General Partner at Mare Liberum
Capital Partners

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.



ALLEN TILLERSON
Senior Advisor for
CHIPS Program Office

OTHERS INVITED:

- Panelist: Allen Tillerson, Senior Advisor for CHIPS Program Office
- Panelist: Dr. Dev Shenoy, Principal Director for Microelectronics at OUSD R&E

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



JOSH BLIELL
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

OTHERS INVITED:

- Panelist: Jack Ryan, Senior Program Manager of Energy Portfolio at Defense Innovation Unit

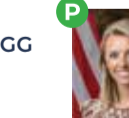
2:20 BREAK

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
& NSWC Crane NSIN Liaison

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

4:15 DAY TWO CLOSING REMARKS