



NC DIDI
North Carolina Defense
Industry Diversification
Initiative

Connecting Dots, Expanding Opportunities

Media Advisory

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NC DIDI ANNOUNCES CHARLOTTE REGION DEFENSE INDUSTRY TOWN HALL

Raleigh, NC April 2, 2018th – The North Carolina Defense Industry Diversification Initiative (NC DIDI) will host a town hall entitled the “Primed and Ready: Charlotte Town Hall Contractors and Suppliers Town Hall” on April 19th, 2018. Participants will discuss solutions to the challenges being faced by businesses who contract or subcontract with the Department of Defense in the state of North Carolina.

“Over the past year we have worked diligently to develop, coordinate and deploy a pilot project that serves the manufacturing and service industries in the defense industry cluster. We are starting to see the fruits of that labor and are ecstatic about sharing the preliminary results with the community.” said Phil Mintz, Executive Director of North Carolina State University’s Industry Expansion Solutions. “This is just the beginning of a larger initiative to continue to enhance standards and maintain sustainability.

“Surveying North Carolina’s defense business industry was done in an effort to acquire derived actionable insights from the data generated throughout the supply chain. After capturing thoughts on how this process could be streamlined, this initiative is now positioned to make recommendations for a strategic plan for the state’s Defense contractors and suppliers in the areas of aerospace, cybersecurity and additive manufacturing.” said Secretary Larry D. Hall, of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Co-Chairman of NC DIDI. “These insights foster economic growth, job creation and innovation.”

Secretary Larry D. Hall will be in attendance and speaking during the program. The presence of the media is requested.

NC DIDI will present the results of the state’s first defense industry supply chain study to community and the successes of companies that took part in the Commercialization Pilot Project. Additionally, they will reveal an action plan for the states’ defense industry contractors and suppliers, distribute information about resources specific to the region and share knowledge gathered from Prime Contractors. The event is being sponsored by the NC Veterans Business Association, Balfour Beatty Construction and The Polymers Center.

The event will be held at the Polymers Center located at 8900 Research Drive in Charlotte, NC. The presentation will begin at 12:00pm and conclude at 2:00pm. The attendance of DoD contracting companies, economic development officers, government officials and procurement experts is requested. Lunch will be served. While the event is free, registration is highly recommended. Those wishing to participate in the town hall can register at our website, www.ncdidi.com or at [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). The next Town Hall of the 5 part series will take place in Research Triangle Park at the Frontier on April 25th, 2018. Registration is also available at www.ncdidi.com

NC DIDI was developed as a proactive response to changes in federal defense spending in the state. The initiative seeks to ensure that the defense supply chain remains robust, so that it is able to quickly absorb sudden high demands from Department of Defense agencies.

The NC Defense Industry Diversification Initiative Advisory Board is chaired by NC Department of Military Affairs [Secretary Larry Hall](#) and NC State Industry Expansion Solutions [Executive Director Phil Mintz](#). NC DIDI is funded through a grant awarded by the [United State Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment](#).

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NCDMVA) provides advice, counsel and recommendations to the Governor, the NC General Assembly, the Secretary of Commerce and other State agencies on initiatives, programs and legislation that will continue and increase the role that NC's military installations, the National Guard and Reserves play in America's defense strategy and the economic health and vitality of the State. The NCDMVA also works to improve the accessibility of health, education, training, counseling, financial, and burial benefits and services to veterans and their dependents.

Industry Expansion Solutions (IES) is the engineering-based, solutions-driven, client-focused unit of NC State University. Our broad portfolio and deep industry expertise help organizations grow, innovate and prosper. Our extensive partnerships with business, industry, education and government generate a unique culture of collaboration that provides access to cutting-edge expertise, research, and technology.

NC VetBiz was formed to assist veterans, veteran professionals, and veteran business owners. As a member-operated association of veteran professionals and business owners, our intent is to develop and strengthen a veterans' business network in North Carolina. The Association is the voice in North Carolina for businesses owned by veterans and service-disabled veterans. By leveraging our collective, we are able to address business issues affecting our membership and work to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes for the business community and North Carolina. Strengthening veteran owned businesses enables them to contribute to North Carolina's economic vibrancy and empowers them to hire other veterans. The North Carolina Veteran's Business Association, doing business as NC VetBiz, is a 501 (c)(3) association headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina.



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