



**NC DIDI**  
North Carolina Defense  
Industry Diversification  
Initiative

*Connecting Dots, Expanding Opportunities*

## Media Advisory

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### ***NC DIDI ANNOUNCES WESTERN REGIONAL TOWN HALL IN ASHEVILLE***

**Raleigh, NC** March 5, 2018<sup>th</sup> – The North Carolina Defense Industry Diversification Initiative (NC DIDI) will host a town hall entitled the “Primed and Ready: NC DIDI Western Defense Contractors and Suppliers Town Hall” on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 states Defense contractors and suppliers.” said Secretary Larry 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.

NC DIDI will be presenting 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. In addition they will be revealing an action plan for the states’ defense industry contractors and suppliers and sharing knowledge gathered from Prime Contractors.

The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Biltmore East located at 1450 Tunnel Road in Asheville, NC. The presentation will begin at 12:00pm and conclude at 2:00pm. Parking is free.

The forum will also include information about resources specific to stakeholders in the western region of the state. In attendance will be leading DoD contracting companies, economic development officers and procurement experts. Lunch will be served. While the event is free, registration is highly recommended. Those wishing to participate in the forum can register at our website, [www.ncdidi.com](http://www.ncdidi.com) or at [EventBrite](#).

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 State of North Carolina is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

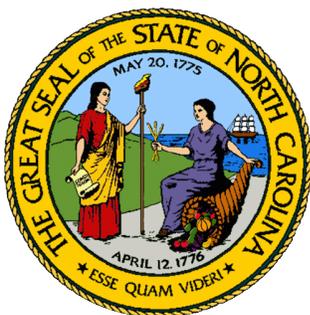
The NC DIDI held similar town halls in the fall of 2017 aimed at gathering the businesses and DoD suppliers to learn more about your experiences as a supplier to the DoD and US military.

The presence of the media is requested.

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. They work to increase the satisfaction of veterans and their dependents with benefits and services by meeting their expectations for availability, quality, timeliness, and responsiveness.

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.



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