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NC DIDI ANNOUNCES THE AVIATION, AEROSPACE and CYBERSECURITY UPGRADE OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM

Raleigh, NC – Monday, March 25th, 2019 - The North Carolina Defense Industry Diversification Initiative (NC DIDI) is excited to announce the launch of the **Aviation, Aerospace and Cybersecurity UPGRADE Symposium** on Wednesday April 17th, 2019. This year NC DIDI is poised to help North Carolina’s aerospace and aviation defense contractors diversify into alternative markets. The initiative also seeks to ensure that the defense supply chain remains robust by aiding companies in better understanding the Department of Defense’s newest cybersecurity regulations. NCDIDI is also expanding their growth and diversification project. The Universal Production Growth and Diversification Extension (UPGRADE) is a program of NC DIDI.

According to the latest numbers released by the US Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment North Carolina companies were awarded \$3.3 Million in contracts. Statewide defense contract awards fell from 2013 through 2015 but recovered quickly in 2017 reaching a total mirroring 2013, but are still below awards from 2010.

Secretary Larry D. Hall, of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Co-Chairman of NCDIDI stated, “We know have actionable insights from the data generated. These insights foster economic growth, job creation and innovation. NCDIDI is now positioned to make recommendations for a strategic plan. We also know that the majority of our defense companies are not cyber ready. We want to aid those companies in reaching DoD’s newest cyber regulations so that these companies are compliant.”

“We want North Carolina firms to be in a position to stay in the game.” said Phil Mintz, Executive Director of North Carolina State University’s Industry Expansion Solutions. “We are excited to be the state’s repository for the supply chain data. This information will help the state better position companies to support our installations both here and abroad”

The event will be held at The NC RURAL CENTER in the SECU Conference Center located at 4021 Cary Drive in Raleigh, NC. The presentations will begin at 1:00pm and conclude at 3:30pm. The attendance of DoD contracting companies, economic development officers, government officials and procurement experts is requested. While the event is free, registration is highly recommended. Those wishing to participate in the U.P.G.R.A.D.E program are encouraged to bring their applications for submission. You can register at [EventBrite](#) or at our website, www.ncdidi.com

Do you own a company within the Aerospace or Aviation Supply Chain and want to enter the commercial sector? Come take a deep dive into NC's defense data as well as connect with peers in attendance. NCDIDI will have on hand all the recently released Defense Cluster Analysis and the states Regional Profiles. In attendance will be past initiative participants and some of the states' leading defense industry stakeholders.

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.

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