

AIR FORCE RESEARCH LAB

REGIONAL HUB NETWORK-MIDWEST

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ABOUT THE AFRL REGIONAL HUB NETWORK

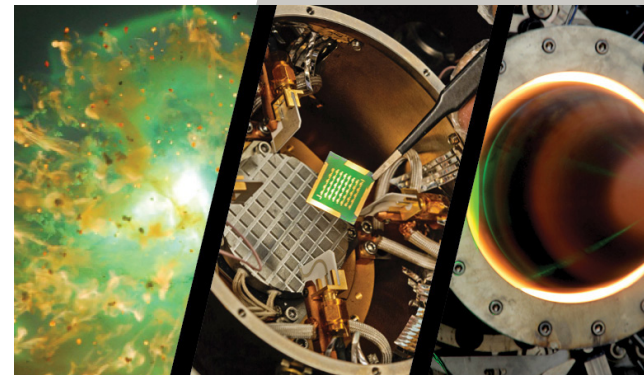
The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Regional Hub network assembles a new science and technology ecosystem with universities, large and small businesses, other government agencies, and venture capitalists in which partners help the lab research high-risk case studies.

These strategic collaborations aim to leverage research, translation, and workforce development successes across the country while integrating stakeholders to encourage science & technology (S&T) exchanges and drive innovation.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY: THE AFRL REGIONAL HUB NETWORK - MIDWEST

Purdue University serves as the lead and headquarters for the AFRL Regional Hub Network - Midwest. The Midwest Hub includes more than a dozen academic and 50 industrial partners from across 12 states in the region. As the lead, Purdue will perform the following duties:

- Develop a region-specific S&T roadmap.
- Pilot partnership models and programmatic interventions.
- Adopt and implement best practices with an eye towards expansion.
- Identify pathways for long-term impact on the United States Air Force/Space Force S&T ecosystem.



[With] multiple hub partners and a broader ecosystem, the hub affords the opportunity to making sure the very best folks with the best facilities are converging on a singular activity to accelerate."

Dr. Richard Vaia, Chief Scientist,
Materials and Manufacturing
Directorate, Air Force Research
Laboratory



(LEFT) Former graduate students Michael Baier and Kate Clements create a “fire tornado” in Zucrow Labs. (Purdue University/Susan Fleck Photography)

(RIGHT) Purdue President Mung Chiang is joined by VP of Research Karen Plaut and AFRL Leaders during the ribbon cutting ceremony. (Purdue University photo/Kelsey Lefever)

MIDWEST AFRL REGIONAL RESEARCH HUB NETWORK GOALS AND PRIORITIES

A New Partnership Model

AFRL Regional Research Hub Network – Midwest integrates diverse stakeholders to create a culture of mission-driven, vertically cohesive innovation that facilitates new teams, processes and exchanges by:

- Co-managing processes, topics and research directions by Hub partners.
- Identifying AFRL scientists and engineers to work side-by-side with researchers across the ecosystem.
- Leveraging unique facilities available across the partnership.

Technology Transition

AFRL Regional Research Hub Network – Midwest will serve as a facilitator of collaborative research that enables cutting-edge technologies to transition from the laboratory bench to the military and commercial markets through:

- Identifying and solving key risk areas for the USAF/SF and the commercial industry.
- Enabling a more robust supply chain by educating partners about USAF/SF needs, providing access to state-of-the-art facilities and increasing awareness of the workforce within AFRL and Midwest Hub Network’s partners.

Workforce Development

AFRL Regional Research Hub Network – Midwest will cultivate and grow the technical and business workforce by:

- Educating university partners about USAF/SF future technology requirements to tailor training of tomorrow’s workforce.
- Developing officer training programs, research programs focused on national security and training for the civilian contract corps or the civilian workforce at AFRL.
- Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within the regional S&T ecosystem through engagement with historically black colleges & universities (HBCUs), minority serving institutions (MSIs) and tribal colleges (TCs), as well as minority-owned, woman-owned, veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

60+
ACADEMIC AND
INDUSTRIAL
PARTNERS

12
MIDWEST STATES

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