The Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation, IACMI, is committed to delivering a public-private partnership to increase domestic production capacity, grow manufacturing and create jobs across the US composite industry.

IACMI is the fifth Institute in the Manufacturing USA network and is supported by the US Department of Energy’s Advanced Manufacturing Office.

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Our collaboration of industry, research institutions and state partners is committed to accelerating development and adoption of cutting-edge manufacturing technologies for low-cost, energy-efficient manufacturing of advanced polymer composites for vehicles, wind turbines, and compressed gas storage.

IACMI’s research, development, and demonstration programs will be driven by major industry participation with a focus on reducing technical risk and developing a robust supply chain to support a growing advanced composites industry. Enhanced energy productivity, increased domestic production capacity and economic development are key impact goals of the Institute.

R. Byron Pipes, the John Leighton Bray Distinguished Professor of Engineering, leads IACMI’s Design, Modeling and Simulation Technology Area, which is housed in the recently opened Indiana Manufacturing Institute.

“It is through closer exchanges of knowledge that both industrial and academic enterprises benefit from the assets of the other in order to accelerate the development of their competitive positions.” Pipes said. “The Indiana Manufacturing Institute will provide an innovative venue for academic and industrial stakeholders to join together for rapid transfer of technology to societal prosperity. As a national manufacturing institute, IACMI links the Indiana composites manufacturing efforts with our five state partners in Tennessee, Michigan, Colorado, and Ohio to build the next generation manufacturing technology for the vehicle, wind, and compressed gas application areas.”

“Purdue is a recognized international leader in composite materials research and the opportunity and demand for research partnerships between Purdue and industry is great,” said Suresh Garimella, Purdue’s executive vice president for research and partnerships and the Goodson Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering. “The opening of the Indiana Manufacturing Institute will enable us to increase these research collaborations and advance our composite materials research even further.”

Composite materials are used in everything from bike helmets to buildings and aircraft, and are used in many economic sectors, including aerospace, aviation, automotive, energy and sporting equipment.

“The state of Indiana has a strong background in composite materials research, development and manufacturing with about 50 companies across the state contributing to this sector,” said Victor Smith, Indiana Secretary of Commerce. “There is little doubt that our state’s economic leadership in composite materials has a direct impact on the fact that Indiana continues to grow its national reputation in advanced manufacturing job growth.”

Advanced manufacturing represents 25% of the Indiana economy, according to the Indiana Economic Development Corp.