

# AIR FORCE RESEARCH LAB

REGIONAL NETWORK-MIDWEST



**30+**

UNIVERSITY  
PARTNERS

**100+**

INDUSTRY  
PARTNERS

**12**

MIDWEST  
STATES

## **ABOUT THE AFRL REGIONAL NETWORK**

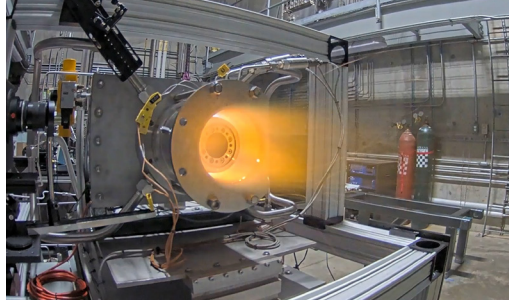
The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Regional Network assembles a new science and technology ecosystem with universities, large and small businesses, other government agencies, and venture capitalists in which partners help the lab research high-risk case studies. These strategic collaborations aim 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 HOME TO THE AFRL REGIONAL NETWORK - MIDWEST**

Purdue University—renowned for its leadership in the areas of energetics, hypersonics, and microelectronics—serves as the lead and headquarters for the AFRL Regional Network-Midwest. The Midwest Network includes more than thirty academic, one hundred industry,

and seven economic development partners from across the twelve states in the region. Due to its integral role in such initiatives as the Microelectronics Commons and the Hypersonics Consortium, Purdue is perfectly suited to lead the Network in the following duties:

- Leveraging research, translation, and workforce successes while integrating stakeholders to encourage meaningful innovation in S&T
- Promoting a culture of networking and collaboration by organizing events at partner institutions, attending relevant conferences across the U.S., and connecting scientists and engineers with AFRL subject matter experts
- Offering funding opportunities to research teams who collaborate with the AFRL
- Fostering workforce development initiatives and professional development opportunities
- Identifying pathways for long-term impact on the United States Air Force (USAF) S&T ecosystem.



[LEFT] Dr. Cristian Herrera-Rodriguez, a Senior Research Engineer, for Great Lakes Crystal Technologies prepares a diamond microchip to test in extreme conditions as part of his Network funded project.

[RIGHT] As part of a funded project, a rotating detonating engine in the Purdue laboratory of Dr. Steven Son burns solid propellants.



**(With) multiple network partners and a broader ecosystem, the network 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

## GOALS AND PRIORITIES

- **Networking and partnerships:** Fostering research teams in domains critical to national security (hypersonics, microelectronics, energetic materials, space domain awareness, and in-space servicing and manufacturing); connecting AFRL scientists & engineers with researchers from partner institutions; leveraging unique facilities across the ecosystem; elevating regional-specific initiatives
- **Innovation:** Identifying and addressing emerging areas with the USAF and the commercial industry; providing funding opportunities to teams engaged in collaborative research efforts that will transition cutting-edge technologies from the laboratory bench to the military and commercial markets; and exploring novel funding and programmatic processes to bring innovation at speed
- **Workforce development:** Educating partners about USAF future technology requirements; advertising internships, workforce development opportunities, and career prospects; encouraging pipeline activities with partner institutions; promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the regional S&T ecosystem

## WHY PARTNER WITH US

- Access to talent, cutting-edge research, and state-of-the-art facilities
- Assistance navigating the complexities of government contracts, funding opportunities, and support programs

- Funding for collaborative research projects that propel AFRL's mission, have the potential for rapid transition, and include opportunities for personnel exchanges with AFRL scientists and engineers
- Engagement with industry pioneers, thought leaders, and decision-makers, leading to potential joint ventures, partnerships, and strategic alliances.

## NEXT STEPS

- **Learn more about the Midwest Network:** Visit our website, YouTube channel, and social media channels
- **Become a partner:** Fill out the form on our website or contact us at [afrlmwst@purdue.edu](mailto:afrlmwst@purdue.edu) for an overview presentation and information on how to join
- **Find collaborators:** Use Tech Connect to connect with USAF science and technology experts; website provides access to open opportunities, identifies meet-up events, lists other DAF S&T enterprise connectors, and provides a way for anyone to share an idea
- **Attend events:** View a list of future events on the events page on our website to find an event to attend or co-host.



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