Bridging the Innovation Development Gap

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BRIDG makes huge strides in national/international reputation

Central Florida Smart Sensors Consortium an Acknowledged Leader

High technology, advanced manufacturing in Central Florida took another big step forward when BRIDG joined a short list of finalists for a support grant from the Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) for its proposed Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

Competition for the grant, supported by Manufacturing USA, was fierce and while the consortium's initial application was deferred, the effort moves BRIDG and its Institute for Sensor and Imager Materials and Manufacturing (ISIMM) into a rarified atmosphere of select company supporting an ongoing, but newly reinvigorated federal effort to build economic prosperity in the region and nation through expanded support of manufacturing in America.

The ISIMM application was, in the language of federal agencies, "found to have merit," meaning the story is not complete at this point. The federal grant competition "remains open," according to NIST and will be subject to further consideration for additional rewards as time goes on. This presents BRIDG and ISIMM in an extremely positive light in both technology terms and potential economic development in the region.

"BRIDG's prominence in this award process and success thus far is a testament to the Osceola County leaders who had the foresight to develop the world's first industry-led smart sensor consortium," said Crystal Sircy, executive vice president of the Orlando Economic Development Commission. "

The world stands at a crossroads with Smart Sensor technology at the core of a fundamental transformation that will affect the way humans interact with almost everything in the next 5-7 years. Universities and research labs are not in a natural position to expedite manufacturing, while Industry doesn't always have the most cost-effective access to that research. BRIDG facilitates the connection between innovation and industry, giving industry easy and cost-effective access to new technologies – thus bridging the innovation development gap that makes transformation possible.

BRIDG is an industry-friendly consortium for advanced sensors, optics and photonics, and other advanced device manufacturing opportunities. BRIDG focuses on the development of innovative manufacturable processes, materials, and equipment for advanced sensors and other future high-tech products (emitters, modulators, energy and communications devices/systems). BRIDG is initially targeting the mega-growth technologies that will lead to over 50 billion devices being connected by sensors by the beginning of the next decade.

Recently, BRIDG was honored to partner with imec - the world-leading nanoelectronics research center based in Belgium - on the opening of imec Florida. The new imec R&D Design Center will work in close collaboration with BRIDG, focusing on photonics and high-speed electronics Integrated Circuit (IC) design. This collaboration continues to strengthen not only the Orlando region and State of Florida but also the entire nation to become the destination for smart sensor innovation.

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REIMAGINING MANUFACTURING

The grant is part of an effort driven by Manufacturing USA, a federal network that is operated by the interagency Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office in the Department of Commerce.

Begun as a pilot program recommended by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, the overarching goal of Manufacturing USA is to coordinate federal resources and programs to enhance technology transfer in U.S. manufacturing industries and help companies overcome technical obstacles to scale up of new technologies and products.

IMPACTING EVERYTHING

Known alternately under the title Internet of Things (IoT) or Internet of Everything (IoE), smart sensors are those tiny technological devices that allow you to interact naturally with things like the touch screen on your phone or tablet. From self-driving cars, to buildings that optimize their environments automatically based on the position of the sun, to wearable devices that monitor heart rate, blood chemistry, temperature and more to smart parking, smart traffic management, smart waste management, smart roads and cities; the capability of applying smart sensors to human living is already transforming the world we live in and the way we live in it.

The technology in development now is on track to be a disruptive force in virtually every industry value chain that delivers a product or service to anyone, anywhere. Specific to the ISIMM effort, development of products using sensor and imager technology will most certainly revolutionize healthcare research, diagnostics and treatment; agricultural management; environmental analysis and more.

HUGE ECONOMIC IMPACT

The impact of the federal grant contribution will be much larger in the end with matching investments from dozens of high-profile industry, supply chain, academic and government partners making ISIMM self-sustaining within the next five years. The work of BRIDG and ISIMM is expected to attract industry partners to Central Florida driving a cluster effect and generate up to 20,000 high tech jobs or more here and hundreds of thousands across the entire nation over the coming several years.

BRIDG is in the midst of constructing a nearly 110,000 square foot facility in Kissimmee and ISIMM will open a specific focus on biological and chemical sensors and advanced imagers that will have a fundamental impact on industries ranging from medicine and healthcare to food and agriculture to environmental safety to energy and transportation to aerospace and defense.

The ISIMM proposal was selected as a finalist by the Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in its competition to create a new Manufacturing USA – Manufacturing Innovation Institute.

This is big news for the region in terms of growth for BRIDG, dedicated to bridging the gap between high-level smart sensor research and industrial development. Advanced Manufacturing uses innovative technology

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to improve products and/or processes and presents significant, as of yet untapped potential to impact the American economy in a positive way.

WHAT IS BRIDG?

BRIDG is an industry-friendly consortium for advanced sensors, optics and photonics, and other advanced device manufacturing opportunities. BRIDG focuses on the development of innovative manufacturable processes, materials, and equipment for advanced sensors and other future high-tech products (emitters, modulators, energy and communications devices/systems). BRIDG facilitates the connection between innovation and industry, giving industry easy and cost-effective access to new technologies – thus bridging the innovation development gap that makes transformation possible.