

RI MADE

Accelerating the Defense Ecosystem

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The URI Research Foundation-led consortium has been awarded a five-year, \$5 million grant by the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation.

This funding will be used to execute programming under the RI MADE designation, supporting workforce development and the expansion of defense manufacturing in Rhode Island.

The program will be executed by Polaris MEP, in partnership with ARM (Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing) Institute and MxD (Manufacturing x Digital), an advanced manufacturing and cybersecurity institute and innovation center.

The Assessment to Execution program under RI MADE will offer technical and/or capital assistance and support of up to \$50,000 in areas of risk mitigation and business practices, cyber security, and robotics and automation to more than two dozen small and medium sized companies in Rhode Island.

Representatives from ARM and MxD will be traveling to Rhode Island to work alongside representatives of Polaris MEP to provide training for University of Rhode Island faculty and student teams. Once trained, these teams will function as consultants, providing assessments and working with selected companies to execute on the recommendations coming out of those assessments-whether it is training, additional service from the team in their area of expertise, or even acquiring necessary equipment.

The RI MADE program will make long-term investments in research and development, critical skills, facilities, workforce development and small business support to strengthen the national security innovation base.

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The application period for the first round of the RI MADE program will close March 1, 2023. Companies who wish to participate should fill out the application linked in full.

Within 30 days of the application period closing, applications will be reviewed by a selection panel and will undergo a competitive selection process. Two companies will be chosen to participate in the first round of the RI MADE program.

Site tours and assessment execution will take place in late March/early April. Assessments will be focused on three key areas risk mitigation, cyber resiliency and robotics and automation.

Teams will report findings and provide recommendations and support to resolve areas of concern at the beginning of April.

The next round of the RI MADE program will begin in spring 2023 and additional companies will be selected to participate.

For application assistance, contact:

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