

# RI MADE

## Accelerating the Defense Ecosystem

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.

RI MADE is funded by a five-year, \$5 million grant by the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation and 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.

### FALL 2023 COHORT DETAILS

The application period for the next RI MADE cohort will open in **August, 2023**. Companies who wish to participate should join the Polaris MEP mailing list to stay informed of program updates. Sign up at [PolarisMEP.org](https://PolarisMEP.org).

Within 30 days of the application period closing, applications are reviewed by a selection panel and undergo a competitive selection process. Up to six companies will be chosen to participate in the fall 2023 cohort of the RI MADE program.

### HOW RI MADE WORKS

#### Phase One:

Each school term, teams of University of Rhode Island students and faculty are trained by ARM, MxD and Polaris MEP. Once trained, these teams function as consultants, executing three (3) assessments, specifically in the areas of:

- risk mitigation,
- automation and robotics, and
- cyber resiliency.

These assessments take place at companies who have applied to RI MADE and been selected by an independent review committee. The assessments include a tour of the manufacturing space. There is no cost to the companies to participate! Participating companies receive a report highlighting strengths and weaknesses, as well as recommendations for improvements. The assessment report is valued at more than \$3,000.

#### Phase Two:

In this step, RI MADE shifts its focus from identifying opportunities and risks to project implementation and funding support.

Companies can apply for up to \$50,000 in technical and/or capital assistance and support for projects in the areas of risk mitigation and business practices, cyber security, and/or robotics and automation. Once again, an independent committee reviews applications and allocates funds for approved projects.

**Over the life of the program, RI MADE will provide support to a minimum of 50 small and medium-sized Rhode Island manufacturers that are in the DoD supply chain or those considering defense-related contracts.**

For questions, contact:

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