Michigan Economic Development Corporation

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Space Innovation Hubs

December 18, 2024

A. Background

Michigan's existing space ecosystem was founded through the significant participation in space-based programs dating back to the 1940s when the first space programs were established by the U.S. Government. With this participation came the establishment of renowned research programs and private industry, albeit small, to support follow-on government missions in space. Michigan is interested in further diversifying its economy by supporting and expanding this extant ecosystem of academic programs and industry participants in a growing Space Economy.

In response to this opportunity, the Office of Defense and Aerospace Innovation (ODAI) initiated a space sector planning initiative to identify the steps required to best grow Michigan's participation in the Space Economy. A major premise of the resulting Campaign Plan is that a highly qualified and respected workforce provides the impetus that can lead Michigan's growth in the Space Economy. Establishing such a workforce includes creating an environment that allows an individual's entrepreneurial spirit to flourish.

A Space Innovation Hub through its support of innovators and entrepreneurs is a key attractor and developer of talent and business and includes supporting the growth of ecosystems already in place in verticals such as space research. Borrowing from regional SmartZone Incubator models, as well as Fords Innovation District, hubs provide a dynamic and exciting environment for creating new ideas, new products, and new businesses by providing networking opportunities for businesses, academia, private equity, and talent. As such, hubs can strengthen Michigan's space offerings by supporting a culture of innovation focusing on the creation of space-related businesses, products, and/or services. Also, the launch of a Michigan-based Space Innovation Hub will further the regional and national impact to the space industry.

B. Purpose of the Request for Information

The MEDC is requesting information from interested parties to help further shape the above-described Space Innovation Hub(s). The purpose of this RFI is to gain a better understanding of the requirements of an innovation hub to include both physical and soft assets. The information obtained through this RFI may be used to prepare a Request for Proposals for the establishment of an Innovation Hub currently planned for development starting 2026.

THIS RFI IS SEEKING INFORMATION ONLY AND DOES NOT IMPLY, COMMIT, OR GUARANTEE FUNDING IN ANY MANNER NOW OR IN THE FUTURE TO ANY PARTY. THIS RFI IS NOT SEEKING BIDS FOR SERVICES AT THIS TIME.

ANY DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AS A PART OF THE RFI ARE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

C. Request for Information Guidelines

- Responses are due by 3:00pm EST time on January 10, 2025.

- Responses should be submitted via **e-mail only** to **contractsandgrants@michigan.org** as a single Portable Document Format (.pdf) attachment. **Response will not be accepted via U.S. mail or any other delivery method.**

- **RESPONSES MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IDENTIFYING INFORMATION APPEARS IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF YOUR EMAIL: *"RFI-CASE-428178 with Company Name, and "message 1 of 3" as appropriate if the bid consists of multiple emails.***

- ***The MEDC will not respond to telephone inquiries, or visitation by Bidders or their representatives. Bidder's sole point of contact concerning the RFI is below and any communication outside of this process may result in disqualification.***

- Responses can be a maximum of 20 pages, utilizing twelve (12) point font or greater, submitted as a single .pdf file.

Any change or update to this RFI will be posted on the MEDC website. Such postings shall constitute constructive notice to the general public of any modifications or alterations of the RFI.

D. Request for Information Response

Respondents are asked to respond to and provide information for the following items:

1. Contact Information of the Respondent

a) Organization and business name and address.

b) Name, title, email and phone number of the individual(s) responsible for the respondent's RFI response.

2. Respondent's Background, Area of Expertise, and Experience

3. Innovation Formation and Management

a) What format makes the most sense for the hub: physical, virtual, hybrid?

b) How can we ensure a culture of innovation exists should the hub be virtual?

c) How does the physical infrastructure of the hub differ when used for supporting national security over that when used to support dual use activities?

d) Office type—can large common areas or segregated offices?

e) Should computer resources or data bases be provided by the hub? How so?

f) What type of telecommunications do you suggest being provided to the tenants?

g) Should the facility provide access to accredited Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) space; what impacts are associated if the SCIFs are located off-site at a nearby location?

h) Conference and meeting rooms: Can conference/meeting rooms be shared with other residents, or do they need to be dedicated to an organization?

i) Is there a need for laboratory space and, if so, describe the requirements?

j) Describe other equipment that should be considered for inclusion in the hub

k) What type of "operational" services should be provided: janitorial, security, guards, etc?

l) Describe if you have interest in the hub having a cafeteria?

4. Services Provided

a) What services should the hub provide?
- Skills training and networking
  - Entrepreneurial training,
  - How to develop a "pitch deck" for investors
  - Security briefings on security threats
  - Security briefings from the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Innovation methodologies/frameworks (training/certification/professional development)
- Space Industry Days (space-tech events, showcase small businesses, etc.)
- Distinguished visitor events (CEOs/CTOs/CIOs) (NASA/AFRL/DARPA)
- Academia mentorship events (hiring events/internships/scheduled hub events) Other? (please describe)

b) Marketing and Strategy

c) Access to partners and collaborators
d) Opportunities to meet, interview, and employ (as co-ops) future talent (students attending a university program using the Innovation Hub space)
e) Opportunity to meet and talk to future employers (for a student attending a university program using the Innovation Hub space)

5. What services should be provided for professional growth?

a) Mentoring

b) Internship program

c) Professional seminars and training for residents

- d) Innovation methodologies/frameworks to guide small businesses through deployment of products/services
- Other? (please describe)

6. Are there existing innovation asset(s) and/or program(s) within Michigan that may be able to support in part or in total an innovation hub effort such has been described in this RFI?

7. Are there Federal (to include but not limited to Department of Defense) organizations, programs, and/or resources that that could play a role in hub development that should be considered?

Please include any additional information that you believe may be beneficial that is not described above.