

PRESS PACKAGE FOR LAUNCH

# SEDIC

## Southeast Defense Innovation Center

### April 30, 2026 — Formation Announcement Launch Press Package

*Flywheel Coworking | 57 Union Street South, Concord, NC | 3:00 – 5:00 PM EDT*

<p><b>Package Contents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 1 — Media Distribution List</li> <li>Section 2 — Media Advisory / Event Notice</li> <li>Section 3 — News Release</li> <li>Section 4 — Partner Network IIST</li> </ul>	<p><b>Embargo Notice</b></p> <p>News Release and Media Advisory embargo lifts 9:00 AM EDT, April 30, 2026.</p> <p><i>Do not publish before program begins at 3:00 PM unless pre-cleared by SEDIC communications contact.</i></p>
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### SECTION 1 — MEDIA DISTRIBUTION LIST

# SEDIC | Southeast Defense Innovation Center

## Media Distribution List — SEDIC Formation Announcement | April 30, 2026

**Distribution timing:** Event Notice → send April 28 EOD. News Release → distribute 9:00 AM April 30 via wire + direct email. Call broadcast desks morning of April 29.

#### CHARLOTTE METRO — BROADCAST

Outlet	Contact/Desk	Type	Email / Tip Line
WBTV-TV (CBS 3, Gray TV)	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	assignmentdesk@wbvt.com   (704) 374-3691
WCNC-TV (NBC 36, Tegna)	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	assignmentdesk@wcnc.com   (704) 329-3600
WSOC-TV (ABC 9, Cox)	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	assignment@wsoc-tv.com   (704) 338-9999
WCCB-TV (CW 18)	News Desk	TV Broadcast	newsdesk@wccbcharlotte.com   (704) 372-1800
WJZY-TV (Fox 46)	News Desk	TV Broadcast	newstips@myfoxcarolinas.com   (704) 398-0046
WFAE 90.7 FM (NPR Charlotte)	News Desk	Public Radio	news@wfae.org   (704) 549-9323

#### CHARLOTTE METRO — PRINT & DIGITAL

Outlet	Contact/Desk	Type	Email / Tip Line
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<b>Charlotte Business Journal</b>	Business / Tech Editor	Business Weekly	tips@bizjournals.com (attn: CBJ)
<b>The Charlotte Ledger</b>	Ashley Fahey, Managing Editor	Digital Newsletter	hello@charlotteledger.com
<b>Charlotte Observer</b>	Business & Metro Desk	Daily Newspaper	news@charlotteobserver.com
<b>Charlotte Magazine</b>	Editor	Monthly Magazine	editor@charlottemagazine.com
<b>QCity Metro</b>	Business Desk	Digital News	news@qcitymetro.com

**CABARRUS COUNTY — LOCAL**

Outlet	Contact/Desk	Type	Email / Tip Line
<b>Independent Tribune (Concord)</b>	News Editor	Local Newspaper	newsroom@independenttribune.com
<b>ConcordToday.com</b>	Editor	Digital Local	editor@concordtoday.com
<b>Cabarrus County Govt Comms</b>	Jonathan Weaver, Comms Dir.	Government PR	jaweaver@cabarruscounty.us   (704) 433-4064
<b>Cabarrus Regional Chamber</b>	Communications	Chamber	info@cabarrus.biz

**NORTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE**

Outlet	Contact/Desk	Type	Email / Tip Line
<b>News &amp; Observer (Raleigh / McClatchy)</b>	Business / State Desk	Daily Newspaper	business@newsobserver.com
<b>WRAL-TV (NBC 5, Capitol Broadcasting)</b>	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	news@wral.com
<b>WNCN-TV (CBS 17, Nexstar)</b>	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	wncntips@nexstar.tv
<b>Triangle Business Journal</b>	Editor	Business Weekly	tips@bizjournals.com (attn: TBJ)
<b>Business North Carolina</b>	Editor	Business Monthly	editor@businessnc.com
<b>NC Policy Watch</b>	Editor	Policy / Nonprofit Media	editor@ncpolicywatch.com
<b>Fayetteville Observer</b>	Business Desk	Daily Newspaper	news@fayobserver.com
<b>Wilmington StarNews</b>	Business Desk	Daily Newspaper	news@starnewsonline.com
<b>Greenville Daily Reflector</b>	News Editor	Daily Newspaper	newsroom@reflector.com
<b>NC Commerce Dept. Comms.</b>	Communications Office	State Government	commerce.communications@nc.gov
<b>EDPNC (NC Economic Dev.)</b>	Communications	State Economic Dev.	info@edpnc.com
<b>UNC Charlotte Communications</b>	Media Relations	University PR	media@charlotte.edu
<b>NC State News Services</b>	Media Relations	University PR	news@ncsu.edu

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE**

Outlet	Contact/Desk	Type	Email / Tip Line
<b>The State (Columbia / McClatchy)</b>	Business Desk	Daily Newspaper	tips@thestate.com
<b>Post &amp; Courier (Charleston)</b>	Business Desk	Daily Newspaper	newsroom@postandcourier.com

<b>Greenville News (USA Today Network)</b>	Business Desk	Daily Newspaper	news@greenvillenews.com
<b>SC Biz News</b>	Editor	Business Weekly	editor@scbiznews.com
<b>Greenville Business Magazine</b>	Editor	Business Monthly	editor@greenvillebusinessmag.com
<b>WSPA-TV (CBS 7 Greenville, Nexstar)</b>	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	assignment@wspa.com
<b>WYFF-TV (NBC 4 Greenville, Hearst)</b>	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	news@wyff4.com
<b>WIS-TV (NBC 10 Columbia, Gray TV)</b>	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	wistips@graymedia.com
<b>WCSC-TV (CBS 5 Charleston, Gray TV)</b>	Assignment Desk	TV Broadcast	assignment@wcsc.com
<b>SC ETV / South Carolina Public Radio</b>	News Desk	Public Radio/TV	news@scetv.org
<b>SC Dept. of Commerce Comms.</b>	Communications Office	State Government	info@sccommerce.com

**DEFENSE & FEDERAL TRADE MEDIA**

Outlet	Contact/Desk	Type	Email / Tip Line
<b>Defense News (Sightline Media)</b>	News Tips	Defense Daily	tips@defensenews.com
<b>C4ISRNET (Sightline Media)</b>	Editorial	Defense Tech / C5ISR	tips@defensenews.com
<b>National Defense Magazine (NDIA)</b>	Editorial	Defense Industry Monthly	editorial@ndia.org
<b>Defense One (Atlantic Media)</b>	News Tips	Defense Policy Digital	tips@defenseone.com
<b>Breaking Defense</b>	Editor	Defense Digital Media	tips@breakingdefense.com
<b>Inside Defense</b>	Editor	DoD Procurement	editor@insidedefense.com
<b>Federal News Network</b>	Acquisition / Business Desk	Federal Digital	news@federalnewsnetwork.com
<b>DVIDS (Defense Visual Info.)</b>	Press Release Submission	DoD Wire Service	dvids.pressreleases@dvidshub.net

**WIRE SERVICES**

Outlet	Contact/Desk	Type	Email / Tip Line
<b>PR Newswire (Cision)</b>	Distribution	Press Release Wire	prn.pressreleases@cision.com
<b>GlobeNewswire</b>	Distribution	Press Release Wire	editorial@globenewswire.com
<b>Associated Press — NC/SC Bureau</b>	AP Carolinas Bureau	Wire Service	ap.charlotte@ap.org

**Broadcast phone follow-up (call April 29, 8–10 AM):** WBTV (704) 374-3691 | WCNC (704) 329-3600 | WSOC (704) 338-9999 | WFAE (704) 549-9323

SECTION 2 — MEDIA ADVISORY / EVENT NOTICE

**SEDIC** | Southeast Defense Innovation Center

Media Advisory — Formation Announcement Event

**MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 30, 2026

**Charlotte Nonprofit Announces Formation of Southeast's First Defense Innovation Center at Concord Event**

*SEDIC to build two-state hub-and-spoke network linking Carolinas defense assets to Pentagon's innovation pipeline*

<b>WHAT</b>	Formation announcement of the Southeast Defense Innovation Center (SEDIC) — a newly incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized to earn a Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) OnRamp Hub designation for the Charlotte region and to build the Southeast's first two-state defense innovation network.
<b>WHEN</b>	Wednesday, April 30, 2026   3:00 PM – 5:00 PM EDT Media arrival and pre-event interviews: 3:00–3:30 PM Program and announcement: 3:30–4:30 PM   Reception: 4:30–5:00 PM
<b>WHERE</b>	Flywheel Coworking at the Cabarrus Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship 57 Union Street South, Concord, NC 28025 Downtown Concord — adjacent to the Historic Cabarrus Courthouse Free parking: Cabarrus County Parking Deck, 81 Spring St. SW (1 block)
<b>WHO</b>	[Rick Hudson], [Title], SEDIC — Founding remarks [Bill Thunberg], [Title], SEDIC — Founding remarks Founding partner representatives — available for interview Note: Confirm speaker titles with SEDIC communications before publishing
<b>WHY</b>	The Southeast is the only major U.S. region with no Defense Innovation Unit presence, despite hosting the 4th-largest active-duty military population in America and billions in annual DoD contract spending across NC and SC. SEDIC is organized to close that gap.
<b>VISUALS</b>	SEDIC two-state partner network map   Founding leadership available for one-on-one interviews Organizational materials and backgrounder available at event and on request

Media RSVP: [SEDIC Communications Contact] | [Phone] | [Email] | SEDefense.org

## SECTION 3 — NEWS RELEASE

# SEDIC | Southeast Defense Innovation Center

## News Release — Formation Announcement

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2026

Contact: [Name, Title] | [Phone] | [Email] | SEDefense.org

## Charlotte Nonprofit Launches Southeast Defense Innovation Center to Connect Carolinas Businesses to the Pentagon's Innovation Pipeline

*SEDIC becomes the Carolinas' organized applicant for a DIU OnRamp Hub designation — filling a documented gap in national defense innovation coverage that spans the entire Southeast*

**CONCORD, N.C., April 30, 2026** — The Southeast Defense Innovation Center (SEDIC), a newly incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Charlotte, today announced its formal formation at a gathering of founding partners and regional stakeholders at Flywheel Coworking in Concord, North Carolina — the city adjacent to the North Carolina Research Campus (NCRC) in Kannapolis, SEDIC's proposed physical hub location.

SEDIC is organized to attract a Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) OnRamp Hub designation to Charlotte — establishing the Carolinas as the Southeast's first formal connection to the Department of Defense's most agile technology acquisition network. Eight OnRamp Hubs currently operate across the country, spanning Pittsburgh, Detroit, Denver, Los Angeles, and four other cities. Not one is located in the Southeast — a region that hosts more than a dozen major military installations, the 4th-largest active-duty military population in the nation, and billions in annual DoD contract spending across North and South Carolina.

"The Southeast has the warfighters, the manufacturing base, and the innovation infrastructure," said **[Rick Hudson], [Title], SEDIC**. "What it has lacked is the organized network connecting those assets to the national defense innovation pipeline. SEDIC exists to build that network and earn the designation that puts Charlotte on the DIU map."

### A Two-State Hub-and-Spoke Network

SEDIC is structured as a two-state hub-and-spoke center network spanning North Carolina and South Carolina. The organization's proposed physical hub is the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis — a 350-acre, eight-university research park 25 miles north of Charlotte that is operational today, requiring no new construction. SEDIC's academic research partner is UNC Charlotte's National Defense and Intelligence Innovation Institute (NDI3), launched January 2026. SEDIC's founding industry anchor is Corvid Technologies of Mooresville — a Top Secret-cleared defense engineering and computational physics firm with more than \$350 million in annual revenue and a 250,000-square-foot manufacturing facility opened in 2025.

"North Carolina already has the congressional momentum — Senator Budd has secured a \$5 million NDAA authorization for a state hub," said **[Bill Thunberg], [Title], SEDIC**. "SEDIC is the organized applicant that turns that authorization into a designation. We are building the two-state coalition now, and the response from the defense innovation community across the Carolinas has been exceptional."

North Carolina spoke partners include the NC Military Business Center (NCMBC) and its DEFTECH technology transition office — a 17-office statewide network that has facilitated more than \$18.6 billion in DoD

contracts for North Carolina businesses since 2005. Additional NC spokes include NC State University's Industry Expansion Solutions defense initiative, the Eastern NC Tech Bridge at Fleet Readiness Center East in Cherry Point, and the Wireless Research Center of Wake Forest — one of only five DARPA Commercial Accelerators in the United States.

South Carolina spokes include the Palmetto Tech Bridge at NIWC Atlantic in Charleston — the Navy's official Southeast defense innovation hub — along with SC Competes' newly launched SC Defense initiative, the South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA), the McNair Aerospace Center at the University of South Carolina, and the South Carolina Technology and Aviation Center (SCTAC) in Greenville, home to the world's only active F-16 production and sustainment facility.

## Addressing the Southeast's Defense Innovation Gap

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North Carolina ranks 30th in defense spending as a share of GDP despite having the 4th-largest active-duty military population in the nation. South Carolina hosts eight major military installations and receives more than \$3.5 billion in annual DoD contracts — a figure that grew 30 percent from 2017 to 2024. Together, the two states represent a defense economy that is large, growing, and systematically underconnected to the commercial technology pipeline that DIU was created to activate.

Senator Ted Budd (R-NC), a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has secured a \$5 million NDAA authorization for a North Carolina hub designation. SEDIC's application is designed to fulfill that authorization by demonstrating the statewide and two-state network the congressional mandate envisions.

## About DIU and the OnRamp Hub Program

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The Defense Innovation Unit, established in 2015 and reporting directly to the Secretary of Defense, operates the OnRamp Hub network to connect commercial technology companies to DoD acquisition mechanisms including Other Transaction Authority (OTA) contracts and Commercial Solutions Openings (CSOs). Hubs are operated by universities and nonprofit organizations under agreement with the Applied Research Institute (ARI), the national hub administrator. No hub currently serves the Southeast.

## About SEDIC

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The Southeast Defense Innovation Center (SEDIC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization incorporated in North Carolina. SEDIC is organized to attract a DIU OnRamp Hub designation to Charlotte, build a two-state hub-and-spoke defense innovation network spanning North Carolina and South Carolina, and connect the region's commercial technology companies to DoD acquisition pipelines. SEDIC's proposed hub location is the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. Additional information is available at [SEDefense.org](https://SEDefense.org).

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**Photos and graphics:** SEDIC partner network map, organizational logo, and leadership headshots available on request.

**Additional background:** SEDIC cluster prospectus, hub application narrative, and board recruitment materials available under NDA to credentialed media on request.

**SECTION 4 — PARTNER NETWORK LIST**

# SEDIC | Southeast Defense Innovation Center

## SEDIC Partner Network — Two-State Carolinas Map

All organizations listed below are SEDIC network participants — either confirmed founding spoke partners, active outreach targets, or identified assets within the hub-and-spoke architecture. Organizations' confirmed status will be updated following the April 30 announcement.

### HUB ANCHOR — CHARLOTTE METRO / CABARRUS COUNTY

Organization	Location	Type	SEDIC Portfolio Focus
<b>NC Research Campus (NCRC)</b>	Kannapolis, NC	Physical Hub Site	All six portfolios — hub operations base
<b>UNC Charlotte / NDI3</b>	Charlotte, NC	Academic Hub Operator	AI/ML · Cyber/Quantum · Advanced Weapons · UAS
<b>Corvid Technologies</b>	Mooresville, NC	Industry Anchor (TS Cleared)	Hypersonics · Advanced Weapons · Cyber/Quantum

### NORTH CAROLINA — WESTERN / CHARLOTTE CORRIDOR

Organization	Location	Type	SEDIC Portfolio Focus
<b>Kimbrell FIC / Gaston College</b>	Belmont, NC	Workforce / Smart Textiles	Advanced Mfg · Biotech & Human Systems
<b>The Pearl / IRCAD North America</b>	Charlotte, NC	Biotech / Medical Innovation	Biotech & Human Systems
<b>GM Defense (ICV Production)</b>	Concord, NC	Defense Manufacturing	Advanced Weapons · Uncrewed Systems

### NORTH CAROLINA — RESEARCH TRIANGLE / CENTRAL

Organization	Location	Type	SEDIC Portfolio Focus
<b>NC State IES / NCDIDI</b>	Raleigh, NC	University Defense R&D	AI/ML · Advanced Mfg · Cyber/Quantum
<b>Wireless Research Center (WRC)</b>	Wake Forest, NC	DARPA Commercial Accelerator	AI/ML · Cyber/Quantum · Uncrewed Systems
<b>First Flight Venture Center</b>	Research Triangle Park, NC	Defense Startup Incubator	Dual-use startup pipeline · All portfolios
<b>Army Research Office</b>	Durham, NC	Federal Research	AI/ML · Advanced Weapons
<b>Vulcan Elements</b>	Johnston County, NC	Rare Earth / Advanced Materials	Advanced Weapons · Advanced Mfg

### NORTH CAROLINA — EASTERN / WARFIGHTER CORRIDOR

Organization	Location	Type	SEDIC Portfolio Focus
<b>NCMBC / DEFTECH (17 offices)</b>	Fayetteville HQ / Statewide	State DoD Business Network	All portfolios — statewide business dev.
<b>ENC Tech Bridge / FRCE</b>	Cherry Point / Havelock, NC	Navy Tech Bridge	Advanced Mfg · UAS · AI/ML

<b>NC Global TransPark</b>	Kinston, NC	Defense Logistics Infrastructure	Advanced Mfg · Energy & Contested Logistics
<b>Gavin JIOP / Fort Liberty</b>	Fayetteville, NC	Army Innovation Hub	AI/ML · Uncrewed Systems · Cyber/Quantum
<b>ECU / ONSI</b>	Greenville, NC	University Naval Liaison	UAS · Advanced Mfg
<b>NCEast Alliance</b>	Greenville, NC	Regional Economic Dev.	Military transition workforce pipeline

**SOUTH CAROLINA — UPSTATE (GREENVILLE / SPARTANBURG CORRIDOR)**

Organization	Location	Type	SEDIC Portfolio Focus
<b>SCTAC / Lockheed Martin F-16</b>	Greenville, SC	Aerospace Defense Mfg	Advanced Weapons · Advanced Mfg
<b>CU-ICAR / Clemson University</b>	Greenville, SC	University R&D (Army autonomous vehicles)	Uncrewed Systems · Advanced Mfg
<b>Greenville Tech CMI</b>	Greenville, SC	Workforce Development	Advanced Manufacturing workforce
<b>SCRA Greenville</b>	Greenville, SC	State Innovation Center	Startup pipeline · All portfolios

**SOUTH CAROLINA — MIDLANDS (COLUMBIA CORRIDOR)**

Organization	Location	Type	SEDIC Portfolio Focus
<b>SC Competes / SC Defense</b>	Columbia, SC	Statewide Industry Network	All portfolios — statewide industry
<b>SCRA Statewide</b>	Columbia / Charleston / Greenville	State Innovation Authority	Startup pipeline · All portfolios
<b>McNair Center / USC</b>	Columbia, SC	University R&D (composites, UAS)	UAS · Advanced Mfg · AI/ML

**SOUTH CAROLINA — LOWCOUNTRY (CHARLESTON CORRIDOR)**

Organization	Location	Type	SEDIC Portfolio Focus
<b>Palmetto Tech Bridge / NIWC Atlantic</b>	Hanahan, SC	Navy Tech Bridge (Southeast mandate)	Cyber/C5ISR · AI/ML · Advanced Mfg
<b>Elbit Systems of America</b>	Ladson, SC	Army Defense Manufacturing	Advanced Weapons · Uncrewed Systems
<b>Joint Base Charleston</b>	N. Charleston, SC	Military Installation	Airlift · Logistics demand signal

<b>2</b> States	<b>25+</b> Partner Organizations	<b>14+</b> Military Installations	<b>\$5B+</b> Annual DoD Contract Spending
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**Note:** This listing represents SEDIC's full proposed network. Confirmed founding spoke partners as of April 30 will be identified at the event. Verify partner confirmation status with SEDIC before publishing partner-specific claims.