

**CONFIDENTIAL RECRUITMENT PROSPECTUS**

# SEDIC

## Southeast Defense Innovation Center

DIU OnRamp Hub Initiative

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SEDefense.org | Charlotte, North Carolina

### Board of Directors & Advisory Board Recruitment Prospectus

*The Southeast has the warfighters. Charlotte has the innovation infrastructure. SEDIC is the organizing structure that connects them — and earns the Southeast its first Defense Innovation Unit OnRamp Hub designation. We are building the board that will make that happen.*

#### The Opportunity

The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) operates a national network of OnRamp Hubs — designated nodes that connect commercial technology companies to the Department of Defense's most agile acquisition mechanisms, including Other Transaction Authority contracts and Commercial Solutions Openings. Eight hubs have been designated since 2023. Not one of them is located in the Southeast.

That gap is not an accident of geography. It is a policy failure — and Congress has begun to correct it. 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. The Applied Research Institute (ARI), DIU's national hub administrator, is actively evaluating Southeast applicants.

SEDIC is organized to win that designation. We are a formally incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in Charlotte, structured as a hub-and-spoke defense innovation center spanning North Carolina and South Carolina. Our physical hub anchor is the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis — 350 acres, eight co-located universities, operational today. Our academic research partner is UNC Charlotte's National Defense and Intelligence Innovation Institute (NDI3), launched January 2026. Our founding industry partner is Corvid Technologies — a Top Secret-cleared defense engineering company with \$350M in annual revenue — located 25 miles north of Charlotte in Mooresville.

The Southeast already has the assets. SEDIC is the structure that activates them.

<b>\$3.5B+</b> Annual DoD contracts in SC alone	<b>8</b> Major military installations in SC	<b>4th</b> Largest active-duty military population, NC	<b>0</b> Existing DIU hubs in the Southeast
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#### What SEDIC Does

SEDIC operates as the Southeast's defense technology transition infrastructure. In practical terms, this means three things:

- We connect non-traditional technology companies — startups, university spinouts, small manufacturers — to DoD acquisition pathways they cannot navigate alone, including DIU's CSO and OTA mechanisms.
- We build and maintain the Southeast defense innovation network — the hub-and-spoke system of military installations, research universities, tech bridges, and industry partners across NC and SC that makes Charlotte's hub more than a single city.
- We serve as the Southeast's voice in the national defense innovation ecosystem — advocating with ARI, DIU, congressional offices, and DoD program offices for investment in the region's underserved commercial technology base.

**Our Six Technology Portfolios**  
 Applied AI & Machine Learning | Energy & Contested Logistics | Cyber, Quantum & Information Dominance | Advanced Weapons: Hypersonics & Directed Energy | Uncrewed Systems & Space Operations | Biotechnology & Human Systems

## Board of Directors — Structure and Composition

SEDIC's Board of Directors provides governance, fiduciary oversight, and strategic direction for the organization. The Board is responsible for approving the annual operating plan, overseeing the hub operator agreement with ARI, and ensuring SEDIC's long-term financial sustainability. We are recruiting for a founding board of 9 to 11 directors.

**What the Board is not:** a ceremonial letterhead. ARI and DIU evaluate the governance quality of hub applicants. A strong board is an operational asset, not a formality.

### BOARD SEAT PROFILES

<p><b>Operational Leadership</b>                  2 seats — Internal  <i>Full engagement</i></p>	<p>The two founding operational leaders of SEDIC — President/CEO and COO or Deputy Director. These seats anchor the board with day-to-day accountability and ensure that governance and operations remain aligned. Held by Rick Hudson and Bill Thunberg.</p> <p><b>Key qualities:</b> <i>Active defense innovation leadership, operational credibility with ARI and DIU</i></p>
<p><b>Military / Defense Intelligence</b>                  2–3 seats                  4–6 hrs/month</p>	<p>Retired flag officers or senior civilian defense executives with direct acquisition system experience. The ideal profile is someone who has sat on the DoD side of a technology transition decision — a former DARPA program manager, DIU portfolio lead, DEVCOM director, or FORSCOM/SOCOM commander. These seats answer the question ARI asks first: does this board understand how DoD actually buys technology?</p> <p><b>Key qualities:</b> <i>Acquisition system experience; active relationships in SASC, HASC, or OSD; ideally Joint Special Operations Command or XVIII Airborne Corps network</i></p>
<p><b>University / Research</b>                  1–2 seats                  3–4 hrs/month</p>	<p>Senior research leadership from UNC Charlotte, NC State, or the NC Research Campus. These seats formalize SEDIC's academic research partnership at the governance level and signal to ARI that the center's R&amp;D pipeline has institutional commitment, not just informal cooperation.</p>

	<p><b>Key qualities:</b> <i>R1 university research leadership; existing DoD-funded research programs; technology transfer experience</i></p>
<p><b>Defense Industry</b> 2–3 seats 3–4 hrs/month</p>	<p>CEOs or senior executives from defense-adjacent companies in the Charlotte region with active DoD relationships. Corvid Technologies' David Robinson is a natural candidate given his NDI3 founding partnership. Additional seats should represent the dual-use manufacturing corridor — advanced materials, aerospace systems, or cyber — and ideally include at least one company that has successfully navigated an OTA or CSO contract.</p> <p><b>Key qualities:</b> <i>Active DoD contracting relationships; dual-use technology experience; Charlotte/NC regional credibility</i></p>
<p><b>Finance / Philanthropy</b> 1–2 seats 3–4 hrs/month</p>	<p>A senior executive from Charlotte's financial sector or a philanthropic leader with experience funding nonprofit infrastructure. Charlotte is the second-largest financial center in the US — Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Truist, and Honeywell are all headquartered here. One finance seat signals to ARI that SEDIC has the financial sophistication to manage a federal hub designation responsibly.</p> <p><b>Key qualities:</b> <i>Senior financial or philanthropic leadership; nonprofit governance experience; Charlotte institutional credibility</i></p>
<p><b>Public Sector / Economic Development</b> 1 seat 2–3 hrs/month</p>	<p>A senior representative from Charlotte's economic development community — ideally the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance or the NC Department of Commerce / EDPNC. This seat connects SEDIC to the state and regional economic development infrastructure and ensures that SEDIC's hub designation is embedded in NC's broader competitiveness strategy.</p> <p><b>Key qualities:</b> <i>State or regional economic development leadership; existing relationships with NC Commerce and EDPNC; defense community engagement</i></p>

## Advisory Board — Structure and Composition

SEDIC's Advisory Board is the organization's credibility network. Advisory members are not fiduciaries — they carry no governance responsibility and attend no mandatory meetings. Their role is to lend their expertise, relationships, and standing to SEDIC's mission, and to open doors that SEDIC's staff cannot open independently.

Advisory board members are asked for two things: permission to use their name and affiliation in SEDIC's public materials and application, and one to two hours per year of direct engagement — a call, a letter of introduction, or a conversation at an event. In return, they receive early visibility into the Southeast's defense innovation ecosystem and the satisfaction of shaping a consequential regional initiative.

We are recruiting 10 to 14 advisory members across four lanes.

### ADVISORY BOARD LANES

#### Lane 1 — Congressional & Policy (2–3 advisors)

Former members of Congress or senior congressional staff with SASC, HASC, or defense appropriations experience. A former Senate Armed Services Committee staff director, a retired HASC professional staff member, or a former senior official from the NC or SC Governor's office with defense community relationships. This lane gives SEDIC credibility with the congressional offices that will ultimately be asked to champion the Southeast hub designation in future NDAA cycles.

**Note:** Senator Thom Tillis retires in January 2027. He holds SASC seniority, knows the DIU leadership personally, and has deep NC defense community roots. An advisory board invitation extended before his departure — paired with a request for an introduction to DIU Director Owen West — would be a high-value ask at the right moment.

**Lane 2 — Defense Innovation & DIU (2–3 advisors)**

Former DIU directors, deputy directors, or portfolio managers — individuals who have evaluated hub applications from the inside and understand what ARI and DIU are looking for. This is the single most valuable advisory lane for the hub application itself. A former DIU or ARI senior official who can speak to SEDIC's application quality in a phone call with ARI's Brooke Pyne is worth more than any document we can produce.

Also in this lane: a former DARPA program manager or DARPA accelerator alumni, given the Wireless Research Center's designation as one of only five DARPA Commercial Accelerators in the US.

**Lane 3 — Industry & Venture Capital (2–3 advisors)**

Defense-focused venture capital partners and former prime contractor executives. The VC presence signals that SEDIC's commercial technology pipeline will attract private capital — which is the financial sustainability argument that ARI cares about for long-term hub viability. Ideal VC profiles include partners from Shield Capital, Decisive Point Venture Advisors, In-Q-Tel, or RTX Ventures.

The prime contractor seat should come from Lockheed, Northrop, BAE Systems, or L3Harris — ideally from a division with active Southeast production relationships. Lockheed's F-16 program at SCTAC in Greenville is a natural connection point.

**Charlotte candidate:** Hank Doss (T2VC, Charlotte) brings local venture credibility, civic profile, and defense technology investment experience. His Charlotte network amplifies SEDIC's regional fundraising capacity.

**Lane 4 — Regional & Civic (3–4 advisors)**

Leaders from across the two-state SEDIC network whose names signal geographic breadth and institutional support. This lane should include at least one voice from Eastern NC (the warfighter demand signal corridor), one from South Carolina (the two-state argument), and one from the Charlotte civic business community.

- Eastern NC: Vann Rogerson (NCEast Alliance, 29-county eastern NC economic development) or Bobby Hager (Executive Director, Fleet Readiness Center East)
- South Carolina: Susie Shannon (SC Competes / SC Defense) or Jody Bryson (SCTAC — home of the world's only F-16 production line), after LOI relationships are established
- Charlotte civic: A senior leader from the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, the Foundation For The Carolinas, or a major Charlotte corporate headquarters
- Community college system: A president from FTCC, RCCC, or Gaston College — reinforcing SEDIC's workforce development narrative and the NCMBC statewide network connection

**Time Commitment and Expectations**

	Board of Directors	Advisory Board
<b>Meetings</b>	Quarterly board meetings (4/year) plus annual in-person retreat. Virtual attendance acceptable for routine meetings.	1–2 events per year, voluntary. Annual advisory convening at SEDIC hub.
<b>Time per month</b>	3–6 hours (varies by committee assignment)	1–2 hours average

<b>Committee work</b>	Finance, Governance, Programs, and Nominating committees. Each director serves on at least one.	Not required
<b>Advocacy</b>	Active advocacy with ARI, congressional offices, and SEDIC's partner network as requested.	Introductions and letters as willing and available
<b>Financial</b>	Directors are expected to support SEDIC's fundraising through personal giving and/or donor introductions at a level appropriate to their capacity.	Not required
<b>Term</b>	3-year initial term, renewable once	2-year term, renewable

### Why This Moment Matters

DIU's OnRamp Hub program is not an open standing solicitation. The eight existing hubs were internally selected — the organizations that won designations were the ones that built relationships with ARI and DIU before the formal selection moment arrived. Round 3 of hub designations is forming now. The organizations that establish their institutional identity, build their coalition, and engage ARI in 2026 are the ones that will be designated in 2027.

North Carolina is already at Step 1 of the selection sequence: Senator Budd's NDAA authorization is in place. The risk is not that Charlotte fails to qualify — it is that another applicant establishes the ARI relationship before Charlotte does. The board we build in the next 90 days is the difference between leading that conversation and responding to it.

#### The Board's Most Important Near-Term Function

Every board and advisory member recruited before SEDIC's formal ARI application is submitted becomes part of the application itself. ARI evaluates the quality of a hub's institutional coalition — who is committed, what they represent, and what relationships they bring. A strong board recruited in April and May 2026 is a direct competitive advantage in the ARI evaluation.

### To Learn More or Indicate Interest

Prospective board and advisory members are invited to contact SEDIC's founding leadership directly. We are happy to share SEDIC's full strategy document, hub application materials, and center prospectus under NDA, and to arrange a site visit to the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis.

#### Rick Hudson

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#### Bill Thunberg

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Additional information: [SEDefense.org](https://SEDefense.org)

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