Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN) SFY 24-25 Budget/Program Summary

OFRN was codified in HB 64 (ORC 193.03-09) of the 131st GA, SFY 2015-2016 as outlined in the Ohio Federal Military Jobs Commission Report. The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) budget contains the Federal Research Network line item (GRF ALI #235578) for the state biennial (2024-2025) budget.

The **purpose of the OFRN** is to stimulate the Ohio economy through university-industry research collaborations that meet the aerospace requirements of the Federal partners in Ohio.

The current funding request is for $5.1M per year in SFY 24 and $5.25M in SFY25 for a total of $10.35M. We are grateful to the Governor and Chancellor in supporting this critical program in developing technology and jobs in Ohio. However, additional funding allocated to this program would allow a significant increase in student engagement and workforce development with the increased academic engagement, increased technological/intellectual development and additional federal funding to the state.

Increasing funding from the budgeted $10.35M to $17.55M over the biennial budget will allow the OFRN to more than double the projects executed in the SFY 24/25 period.

Return on Investment (~7:1) since 2015
✓$51+M State of Ohio Investment
✓$355M+ Follow-on Federal Funding Awarded
✓$36M+ Cost-share

Overall Results
✓35 R&D Projects Funded
✓13 Spinouts created
✓350+ Direct Jobs Created
✓12 IPs Created

Network/Collaborators/Partners
✓97 Industry Companies
✓21 Academic Institutions (2&4 year)

The **goals of the OFRN** are to (1) to stimulate Ohio's innovation economy by building vibrant, statewide university/industry/research collaborations in technical areas that capitalize on key state investments; (2) create leading-edge technologies that drive job growth for our state; (3) expand to additional US Government departments and agencies for each research effort; and (4) develop the workforce of the future by keeping Ohio's best and brightest in Ohio.

To do this, Round 6 will focus on the R&D of topics that match up well with the new technology and industry being developed in Ohio. Examples of which are the Intel Fab & microelectronics, commercial space operations in Low Earth Orbit, Digital Engineering, and Hypersonics.

Workforce development was added to the current project round which required the teams to incorporate students into both the R&D development as well as the business aspects of the project. The students range from undergraduates to post-graduate researchers. *In 2022/2023, 69 students have been engaged in the seven projects currently funded in Round 5.* Rounds 1-5 also successfully demonstrated the pathway to building on Ohio's Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), Aerospace and Defense ecosystem and transitioning it through innovation and collaboration as the ROI indicates.

Ohio's Federal Partners will be essential to the integration, funding, and commercialization of the types of technologies developed over the next 5 years. OFRN will use the strategy and guidance developed by our Federal, State and Industry partners to make Ohio the technological and innovation destination for the global marketplace.

Quoting the World Economic Forum in its highly touted Global Competitiveness Report:
"In the long run, standards of living can be expanded only by technological innovation ... This requires an environment that is conducive to innovative activity, supported by both the public and the private sectors."