

## Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN) SFY 24-25 Budget Request

OFRN was codified in HB 64 (ORC 193.03-09) of the 131<sup>st</sup> 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 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. Of course, we feel that additional funding allocated to the OFRN 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. The projected increase in outputs and outcomes can be seen in the chart on the following page.

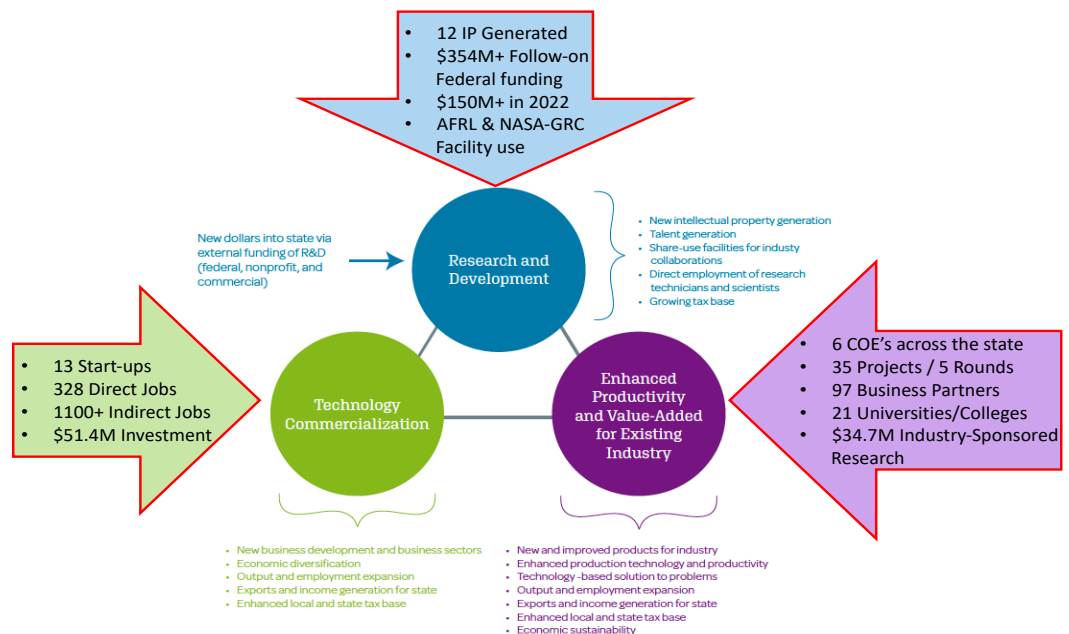
The **purpose of the OFRN** is to stimulate the Ohio economy through university-industry research collaborations that meet the aerospace requirements of Federal Labs in Ohio — NASA Glenn, Air Force Research Lab (AFRL), Naval Medical Research Unit - Dayton, the National Air & Space Intelligence Center (NASIC), and the Ohio National Guard.



The **goals of the OFRN** are to (1) stimulate Ohio's innovation economy by building vibrant, statewide university/industry/not-for-profit 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) move Ohio into the top 10 in federal research and development funding.

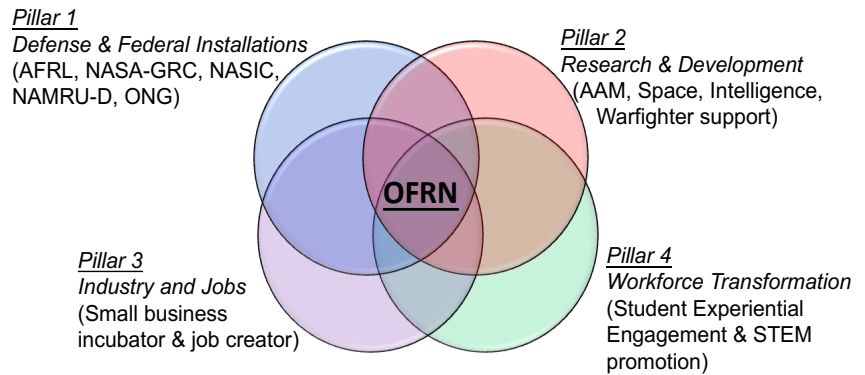
In 2018, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce released

**Ohio BOLD: A Blueprint for Accelerating the Innovation Economy** [for full report to include graphics see <https://ohiochamberfoundation.com/projects/ohio-bold/>]. The report is a call to action, and OFRN has been answering that call in every funded Round since its inception. The figure to the right, modified from the Ohio Bold report with the added red outlined arrows, perfectly exemplifies the nexus that OFRN brings to Ohio by meeting all three of the goals the authors outlined as critical to the growth of Ohio's economy.



Research & Development (R&D), Technology Commercialization, and the Value-Added for Existing Industry *maps directly* into the triple-helix model that is utilized in the operation of OFRN when it comes to the academic-industry-federal partner relationship.

Additionally, OFRN is a force multiplier for the Governor's Aerospace and Defense Pillars as illustrated to the right.



Under the guidance and support of the ODHE, the OFRN has successfully demonstrated the pathway to building on Ohio's aerospace and defense ecosystem and transitioning it through innovation and collaboration utilizing a unique partnership of Ohio universities, industry, and the Federal research laboratories.

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."*

The graph to the right illustrates the previous, current, and projected program results based on increased funding. Doubling the funding from the budgeted \$10.35M to \$20M over the proposed biennial budget will significantly increase all the measures for the program.

OFRN Round 6 will focus on the research and development of topics that match up well with the new technology and industry being developed in Ohio. These new companies

and initiatives (Intel, Honda Battery R&D, Hyperion H2 Vehicle Manufacturing, and Commercial Space Operations in Low Earth Orbit (LEO)) will be mapped into the Round 6 Areas of Interest from our Federal partners. OFRN will provide opportunities for two- and four-year institutions to compete on projects ranging from \$750K to \$1.5M with a specific focus on technology transition from the universities to industry and the government.

Ohio's Federal Partners will be essential to the integration, funding, and commercialization of the types of technologies developed over the next 2-5 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.

	Actual FY 2019	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Estimated FY 2023	Projected FY 2024	Projected FY 2025
<b>Program Funding</b>	\$ 3,450,000	\$ 4,628,500	\$ 4,950,000	\$ 4,950,000	\$ 4,950,000	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 10,000,000
<b>Output Measure #1</b> - Number of federally-aligned, Ohio-networked projects funded	4	6	6	7	7	14	14
<b>Output Measure #2</b> - Number of Ohio University Faculty Engaged in Projects	23	21	16	31	29	40	40
<b>Output Measure #3</b> - Number of Students Engaged in research opportunities and entrepreneurship through OFRN-sponsored projects(1)	50	22	12	52	48	75	75
<b>Outcome Measure #1</b> , Number of Scientific and technical publications based on OFRN projects (2)	43	6	2	5	10	15	22
<b>Outcome Measure #2</b> - Number of proposal submitted to Federal Research Opportunities	33	31	31	57	57	85	85
<b>Outcome Measure #3</b> - Federal Follow-on Research & Development Funding brought in by Ohio teams in \$M (3)	\$52	\$24.5	\$10.5	\$150.8	\$15	\$40	\$55