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AFRL and EMTEC Project Sparks Innovation and Technology Transfer In Ohio

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WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio -- The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Materials and Manufacturing Directorate (ML) recently signed a Collaborative Project Order with the Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC), under The Wright Brothers Institute's (WBI) Partnership Intermediary Agreement, that will enable technology transfer and commercialization opportunities between AFRL and the state of Ohio.

The AFRL-EMTEC partnership will accelerate the transfer and commercialization of technologies, and will establish new relationships across industry, academia and government laboratories in support of the Air Force Technology Transfer Program. In addition, the agreement establishes an EMTEC collocate at ML. The effort also advances Governor Bob Taft's Third Frontier Initiative Objectives.

"AFRL is active in many critical technology areas; nanotechnology, biotechnology, fuel cells, lasers, composites, polymers, propulsion systems, and sensors to name a few," Mr. Marvin Gale, ML's Technology Transfer Manager stated. "Through this arrangement with EMTEC, we expect to establish many new collaborations with schools, companies, and other agencies in Ohio."

Currently, the partnership is a one-year pilot program in which AFRL and EMTEC will commercialize AFRL technologies, create collaborative research agreements, provide assistance to small businesses, and enable other technology transfer efforts. "Though ML is the lead in this agreement, the partnership is also structured to enable technology transfer in support of technologies that AFRL's other technical directorates at Wright-Patterson AFB are involved in," Mr. Gale added.

EMTEC's role in the partnership includes actively mining AFRL for intellectual property, identifying technology transfer opportunities, and assisting AFRL in forming mutually beneficial collaborative research projects and business ventures in Ohio.

"EMTEC is very pleased to be able to work closely with AFRL," Dr. Richard Shultz, the vice president of commercialization at EMTEC said. "We are anticipating the accelerated commercialization of AFRL-developed technologies as a result of this partnership."

EMTEC is a not-for-profit organization that serves to improve the industrial competitiveness of Ohio industries by facilitating the development, deployment, and commercialization of materials and processing technology. Through its members and partnership agreements with Ohio's universities, government laboratories, and industry, EMTEC has access to over \$2 billion in technology resources.

Since 1987, EMTEC has funded over \$40 million in cooperative research and development projects. Through its affiliation with the Manufacturing Small Business Development Center and the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers programs, EMTEC has become a "one-stop" center for transferring materials and manufacturing innovations to Ohio industries, and providing business assistance.

Headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, with an additional research facility at Tyndall AFB, FL., ML develops materials, processes and advanced manufacturing technologies for aircraft, spacecraft, missiles, rockets and ground-based systems and their structural, electronic and optical components. This research includes revolutionary technologies like nano and biotechnologies, and computational materials science, which achieves unprecedented levels of performance in materials. The ML Technology Transfer Program aims to transfer ML Technologies for commercialization and enable affordable transition of products for Air Force weapon systems.