

San Bernardino Investment Playbook

Project Details: National Security Innovation Ecosystem

The National Security Innovation Ecosystem project will build a coalition of academic institutions, companies, government entities, nonprofits, and others intent on creating a model innovation ecosystem for the region. Led by the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship (IECE) and School of Entrepreneurship (SoE) at CSUSB, this effort will galvanize user-inspired research, technology translation, and workforce development throughout the Inland Empire.

Commercialization of national security innovations will be a central focus of this project. The innovation ecosystem will identify new ways to connect innovations with a risk-taking entrepreneurial culture in order to drive user-inspired R&D and increase the translation of innovation to practice, which will in turn strengthen the regional economy.

RATIONALE

Currently, the Inland Empire lacks a cohesive and integrated approach to regional innovation and technology commercialization. While there are a wide range of assets and innovation activities in the region, no single effort brings these organizations together with a coordinated strategic approach to regional economic development and inclusive participation.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop an effective model ecosystem capable of supporting innovation-intensive regional economic development
- Commercialize existing national security innovations in critical technology categories, inspiring spin-off firms and growing clusters that boost job creation and strengthen the regional economy
- Establish a platform for regional innovation that includes an incubator program specific to national security technology, panels of subject matter experts, key university/education partners, and funding channels
- Establish an inclusive track that gives minority and underrepresented inventors and entrepreneurs equal access to defense-related innovation and intellectual property, commercialization, and funding

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

This 7,500-ft² facility will be composed of office, program, and training space, likely co-located with a NavalX Tech Bridge hub or satellite node. It will have a staff of three FTEs during Phase 1 (full-time director plus two-person support staff).

The first phase of this project will lay the groundwork for the ecosystem. Over the next two years, stakeholders will:

1. Conduct an ecosystem discovery process via independent assessment that builds on current innovation ecosystem mapping in order to inform long-term ecosystem development
2. Recruit key partners willing to collaborate on the creation of a sustainable and inclusive innovation ecosystem

3. Develop short- and long-range plans and goals as well as programs and activities needed as the ecosystem evolves
4. Establish potential commercialization and educational programs in collaboration with regional and national Minority Serving Institutions

Once the initial assessment, coalition-building, and strategic planning are complete, we will implement a minimum of two pilot programs designed to advance regional innovation.

During Phase 2, the staff will grow to 10 full-time team members and 10-15 contractors providing specific, focused services for the various programs. This 10-year phase will see implementation of a wide range of programs and activities focused on user-inspired research, translation of innovations to practice, and workforce development for sustained innovation, including:

- End-user R&D collaborations on specific areas of pressing regional, industry, and/or national security innovation concern
- Innovation portfolio assessment (IP portfolio mining from universities and U.S. Department of Defense)
- Industry research collaboration vehicles
- Focused technology transfer grants
- Accelerators
- Regional startup academies
- Prototyping labs
- Ecosystem-building events
- Tech career mobility training
- Sponsored technical and venture internship and fellowship programs

COST

\$1M Phase 1 (24 months)

\$160M Phase 2 (10 years)

\$161M TOTAL over twelve years

POTENTIAL FUNDING

Federal

National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines Grant

LEAD ORGANIZATION

Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship (IECE) and School of Entrepreneurship (SoE) at CSUSB

Michael Stull, director, IECE and SoE

Anna Long-Ruboyianes, assistant professor, tech commercialization director

Troy Clarke, director, Inland Empire NavalX Tech Bridge, U.S. Navy

SIMILAR PROJECTS ELSEWHERE

[New Mexico Consortium](#) (NMC) – nonprofit corporation established by three universities to support research collaborations among universities, private-sector firms, and the Los Alamos National Laboratory