

TEDC 2022 CEDA APPLICATION

All Applications Must Be Received by August 19, 2022

The 2022 CEDA nominations will be judged in each of the five categories that have made the most significant contribution to economic development in their community and the State of Texas.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The CEDA will be given to one community from each of the following five population categories: (as currently marketed). Mark the population category for which you are applying.

- Population less than 10,000 _____
- Population 10,001 to 20,000 _____
- Population 20,001 to 50,000 _____
- Population 50,001 to 100,000 _____
- Population 100,001 to 250,000 _____
- Population 250,001 and above X

NOMINATION:

Name of Community: Brazos Valley

TEDC Member Name: Matt Prochaska (individual member, not organization)

Telephone #: 979-260-1755

Email Address: MProchaska@brazosvalleyedc.org

Community Population (as currently marketed): 270,000

Application Submitted By: Matt Prochaska

Email Address: MProchaska@brazosvalleyedc.org

Media Contacts: [optional]

Organization: Brazos Valley EDC Contact Name: Matt Prochaska

Email Address: MProchaska@brazosvalleyedc.org

Organization: _____ Contact Name: _____

Email Address: _____

SUBMITTED FOR:

- Business Retention Business Attraction
- Business Expansion Community Involvement

SUMMARY REVIEW

Please attach a brief description of the economic development efforts and accomplishments of the project or program (specific to the project or program for which you are submitting the application). Within this description, address the awards criteria of innovativeness, transferability, community commitment, measured objectives and secondary benefits. The narrative portion of the application is limited to four (4) conventionally formatted 8.5" x 11" pages. Please also submit up to five (5) digital photographs (jpeg) to amy@texasedc.org. The photos must be submitted with the application form. The photographs will be presented during the CEDA luncheon at the TEDC's 2022 Annual Conference.



Texas Defense Aerospace Manufacturing Community

Project Summary

In 2021, the Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation (BVEDC) partnered with the Texas A&M Engineering Station (TEES) in applying for a Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program (DMCSP) grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). The purpose of the DMCSP is to support long-term community investments that promote national security innovation and expand the capabilities of Texas's defense manufacturing industrial ecosystem. This federal designation creating the Texas Defense Aerospace Manufacturing Community (TDAMC) carries great significance not only for the state's future economic development, but also the nation's security and defense. Every EDO in the State of Texas is able to participate, with many already championing the opportunity.

The goal of applying for this statewide designation was to have it serve as a catalyst for recruiting companies to the state and developing the critical workforce. The targeted industries include smart manufacturing (SM) skills and technologies, aerospace manufacturing, artificial intelligence, 5G, and cybersecurity. This is a key initiative for the country's long-term security as identified by DOD.

The Brazos Valley, located in central Texas, serves as the hub for TDAMC due to its strategic proximity and connectivity to the state's four largest metro areas. The "Texas Triangle" region houses a large percentage of the state's aerospace manufacturing workforce and industry concentration. Not only is the BVEDC the co-applicant, but it also serves as the community partner for the four-year, \$5 million designation which applies to the entire state.

As one of just five communities in the country to be awarded this designation on September 22, 2021, TDAMC was established. It brings together stakeholders statewide, including academic institutions, economic development organizations, manufacturers (large, medium, and small), national programs (MEP, Manufacturing USA Institutes), and government entities (federal, state, and local). Through this engagement, the state will be aligned in efforts to bring forth economic development, defense

education and workforce development, and technological readiness across different regions, strengthening DOD aerospace and manufacturing production resilience, and increasing regional economic competitiveness.

Innovativeness

- TDAMC is a central entity that joins regional coalitions using a hub-and-spoke approach, and is the only one of its kind in the nation.
- The hub-and-spoke model allows deployment to flow into and out of each region.
 - These deployment entities are the “regional champions,” creating a systemized, statewide network that promotes aligned recruitment of companies in the sector, along with recruitment and development of workforce.

Transferability

- All communities across the state have the opportunity to be involved with this program through TDAMC.
- The project was designed to build upon the hub-and-spoke model by establishing a “regional coalition” made up of “regional champion” entities from each of the major metros whose mission is to spearhead project efforts within their region.
- Communities can leverage the curriculum and mission by shaping project scope to fit their location’s competitive advantages.
- Workforce can be recruited, developed and employed in each region.

Community Commitment and Leverage

- The creation of TDAMC established the largest defense manufacturing contracting network in the nation by connecting the entire state through establishing relationships between numerous EDOs, private, public, state, community college, and higher-ed institutions.
- The program establishes a “regional coalition” promoting regional collaboration statewide.
- The program aligns efforts across the state to make Texas an overall more competitive recruiting market for defense-related projects and workforce recruitment and development.
- The program allows for communities to partner together to leverage each location’s strategic advantages, showcasing the power of a regional approach to economic development.

Measured Objectives

- TDAMC serves the following regions:
 - The mega-metropolitan areas of Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio and Houston, plus the 35 counties comprising these regions
 - The contiguous counties within 75 miles of the Texas Gulf Coast
 - This area captures the significant aerospace activities in the Corpus Christi region and the emerging space activities in the Rio Grande Valley region.
- Twenty-plus EDOs, four private entities, six higher education entities, and five state agency entities are involved in the effort.
- The Texas Triangle region is home to 96% of the state's defense manufacturing contracts and more than 15% of U.S. contracts totaling \$91 billion.
 - Texas has more defense manufacturing than any state in the U.S., having defense aerospace contracts nearly four times that of the next largest state.
- Provides support of several top ten aerospace defense contractors recruited to Texas.
- TDAMC began statewide conversations and collaborations regarding the following 11 technologies & skill sets to create SM jobs:
 - 5G wireless networks (industrial Internet of Things), Smart sensors, Edge computing, Cloud data/computing, Digital twins, Artificial intelligence, Machine learning, Cybersecurity, Advanced human-machine interfaces, Virtual reality/augmented reality, Additive manufacturing (for rapid prototyping and production)

Secondary Benefits

- Increased regional cooperation: uniting previously disconnected “pockets of excellence” by forming regional coalitions under one common objective leading to enhanced relationships and a more competitive overall state.
- Speed to market: Increased promotion of SM ideas and technologies that would otherwise be much slower for various regions to adopt.
- Improved business cost/profitability: continuously monitored resources and artificial intelligence-driven insights alert on unusual patterns and suggest improvements.
- A more highly-skilled workforce: equipping the workforce with SM skills will feed into more than just the defense manufacturing sector, furthering a state-wide culture of education and excellence that crosses industry boundaries.
- Talent attraction and retention: as TDAMC injects these SM skills and technologies into

the member regions' workforce, companies will have an easier time recruiting and maintaining the necessary talent to thrive.

Conclusion

The creation of the Texas Defense Aerospace Manufacturing Community by the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station and the Brazos Valley EDC provides strategic advantages to accelerate economic development recruitment activities in the state, and to align workforce development and enhanced training across each major region in Texas. The receipt of this designation has allowed various public and private partners to band together with the mission of increasing SM skills within the state.

Successful implementation of smart manufacturing technologies, workforce training, and assistance to small- and medium-sized manufacturers through this program positions Texas to be the dominant ecosystem and location for defense, aerospace and manufacturing in the U.S. This united approach of combining successful recruitment of companies to Texas and enhanced workforce development will continue to widen the gap between this state and others.

Important Milestones

2021

- DOD Official Award, September 22nd
- Awardee Orientation, December 7th
- Statewide Kick-off Event, December 17th

2022

- SecureAmerica Threatcasting Institute Event, TDAMC, April 7th
- Securing Defense Critical Supply Chains with the White House, June 16th
- DOD TDAMC Summit, October 20th

Relevant Links

- <https://texasmanufacturing.org/>
- <https://oldcc.gov/defense-manufacturing-community-support-program>
- <https://tees.tamu.edu/news/2021/12/texas-aerospace-manufacturing-gets-boost-with-multimillion-dollar-grant.html>
- [Texas Manufacturing Renaissance \(secureamerica.us\)](https://secureamerica.us/)
- [Our Team \(secureamerica.us\)](https://secureamerica.us/)