

## Defense Industry Partnership – Fiscal Year 2014 Engagement Strategy

The Rhode Island Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWB) and Department of Labor and Training have provided a grant to create a Defense Industry Partnership (Defense IP), with the lead organization being the Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA). We are entering the third year of the grant.

Our industry sector is very important to the economic health of our state and the grant is designed to help SENEDIA become a more effective steward of preserving and growing the work force in the State that supports Defense and Homeland Security.

In support of this, the Defense Industry Partnership Engagement Strategy for Fiscal Year 2014 is:

1. Identify the training needs of industry companies, including skill gaps critical to competitiveness and innovation
  - a. The Defense Industry Skills Gap Assessment conducted several years ago, identified technical communications for current employees as a significant gap. A Technical Communications Course will be offered in the fall of 2013.
  - b. A follow-up skills gap survey will be conducted this year.
2. Facilitate networking for training and education needs to achieve economies of scale
  - a. Training and educational opportunities will be shared with SENEDIA member companies through email correspondence and our web site.
  - b. Other common training opportunities will be identified and conducted. In partnership with the National Contracts Management Association joint training sessions will be provided.
  - c. Networking events providing pertinent topics of interest will be held throughout the year.
    - i. Events held to fiscal year to date include: Congressman Langevin discussion on Cybersecurity; Roundtable discussion with the RI Economic Development Corporation.
3. Work with educational and training institutions and other organizations to align curriculum and programs to industry demand and collaborate to facilitate connecting youth to careers
  - a. We have established working relationships with educational institutions, including the University of Rhode Island, the Community College of Rhode Island, New England Tech, the Pell Center and RI middle, high school and career technical schools and will interact to define industry curriculum requirements and discuss career opportunities.
    - i. Interactions fiscal year to date include: SENEDIA Cybersecurity Internship Program – summer 2013; Undersea Technology Apprenticeship Program – mentorship- summer 2013; Raytheon 2013 summer Program for high school students; Newport County Mentors Career day – summer 2013; Lifespan Summer Internship Program – summer 2013.
4. Collaborate to address common organizational challenges –adopting new technologies and fostering experiential on-the job learning
  - a. A major focus during fiscal year 2014 will be cybersecurity. In support of that an industry working group under the technical direction of Raytheon has already been established to share information and provide on-the-job training opportunities.
5. Develop new career ladders and pathways enabling entry-level workers to improve skills to advance into higher skill, higher wage jobs.
  - a. The Defense Industry Partnership has published 4 career ladders: Defense Engineer; Defense Technician; Defense Business Administration; Defense Production. We will continue to refine and promulgate these during the year.

6. Interact with organizations focused on veterans to identify mutually beneficial opportunities to connect the veterans with our industry.
  - a. Interaction with the RI National Guards and the RI Employer Support of Guards and Reserves (RI ESGR) is planned.
    - i. Interactions fiscal year to date: SENEDIA was the keynote speaker at the Leadership Rhode Island Military day, sponsored by the RI ESGRI in August 2013.
7. Provide networking and communication to promote innovation and dissemination of best practices.
  - a. In November 2013, SENEDIA will partner with the University of Rhode Island for an “Innovation in Defense, Ocean Engineering and Oceanography” day.
  - b. Other events focused on the cybersecurity market are also planned.
  - c. Best practice examples are disseminated through our web site, email communication and our networking events.
8. Develop a network of partners to expand the industry through collaboration.
  - a. We have expanded our SENEDIA Partners and Defense Industry Partners and they now include the cities and towns of Aquidneck Island (Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth), the Newport County and Greater Providence Chambers of Commerce, the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, the National Contract Management Association, the Rhode Island Small Business Development Center, the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation, the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Committee, the Rhode Island Procurement Technical Assistance Center, and the Rhode Island STEM Center at Rhode Island College.