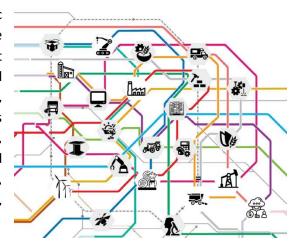


## **Kansas State University EDA University Center Program**

## **Center Focus:**

In early 2022, K-State launched the university's Economic Prosperity Plan, a new strategic economic development initiative to help people, businesses, communities, and regions throughout Kansas prosper by engaging and leveraging K-State's technical expertise and outreach strengths. As an embodiment of this plan, in early 2023 K-State and several statewide and regional partners (NetWork Kansas, Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, and GoTopeka) committed to create a statewide innovation-based business and industry network to advance community vitality, increase small business start-ups, provide technical assistance, and increase direct small business investment across Kansas.



In support of the University's Economic Prosperity Plan and the State of Kansas University Engineering Initiative Act (UEIA), the K-State College of Engineering, TDI, and its anchor partners launched **The K-State Technology Enterprise Innovation Network,** a EDA-funded University Center that is collaboratively deploying a range of business/technical assistance and workforce development/education services/programs to directly provide technical and business solutions, develop new products/services, implement new advanced technologies, develop/educate workforce, and grow/expand operations. This University Center is leveraging recent EDA/TDI advanced manufacturing technology investments, TDI's extensive economic development network, and is fueling TDI's work with its network partners to assist entrepreneurs, innovators, and companies throughout Kansas in need of business and technical assistance activities. Specific Business and Industry (B&I) Services and Programs provided by this partnership include:

- Product and business planning services which may include market and customer research, management assistance, human resource and legal services
- Financial and accounting support for new start-up companies including the establishment of appropriate book keeping procedures, document control and manufacturing operations
- Assist entrepreneurs/small companies growth efforts through new capital assistance programs
- Intellectual property protection support and/or prior art searches to determine concept validity
- Engineering support for product design and prototyping of new ideas and innovations
- Product testing, materials/parts sourcing, and early-stage manufacturing planning
- Custom equipment design for existing companies
- Automation development and deployment to address labor shortages

- Education programs providing information on the product development process and resources available to assist
- STEM education and career exploration with high schools across the state
- Incubation assistance to rural/urban small manufacturers through development of regional microfactory initiatives
- Community/regional technology-based economic development strategy development/support
- Work-based internships for K-State business and engineering students to gain hands on experience in working directly with companies to address critical needs

## **Network Anchor Partners:**

- Kansas State University College of Engineering, K-State Technology Development Institute (TDI), NetWork Kansas, Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center (NWKEIC), and GoTopeka







