New American Lightweight Materials Innovation Institute Expands Obama’s National Network of Manufacturing Innovation

A leadership team from EWI, University of Michigan, and The Ohio State University has been chosen by the Department of Defense to lead a new national institute to advance lightweight and modern metal manufacturing technologies. The American Lightweight Materials Innovation Institute (ALMMII) will ensure that the U.S. is the world leader in the application of innovative lightweight metal production and component/subsystem manufacturing technologies.

Columbus, OH (PRWEB) February 25, 2014 -- The American Lightweight Materials Innovation Institute (ALMMII), the newest center in the President’s National Network of Manufacturing Innovation, was announced today at a White House event. The public-private institute is being launched as part of a federal initiative to help U.S. manufacturers become more competitive and encourage investment in the United States.

Co-founded by EWI, University of Michigan and The Ohio State University, ALMMII will open its doors in spring 2014. The new facility, headquartered in the Metro Detroit area, will focus on developing advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technology for transition to the industrial sector.

The goal of the new institute will be “to expand the market for and create new consumers of products and systems that utilize new, lightweight, high performing metals and alloys by removing technological barriers to their manufacture,” the White House said.

Both government and industry recognize that using lightweight production materials is increasingly important for enhancing the performance of our country’s defense, transportation, and energy systems, as well as strengthening our work force. Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio expressed full confidence and support for the launch. "American workers have the drive, the creativity, and the determination to out-innovate the rest of the world," he said. "By developing innovative partnerships among the DoD, research institutions like The Ohio State University, and industry organizations like EWI, we ensure that American workers and businesses have the resources they need to develop the next generation of high-tech manufacturing Industries. This type of investment helps rebuild our nation's manufacturing sector while creating new jobs and strengthening our middle class.”

Senator Carl Levin of Michigan commended the manufacturing strengths of the ALMMII region. “ALMMII will take advantage of the world-class infrastructure already present in Detroit and Southeast Michigan and will tap the potential of cutting-edge research and educational programs in the region. It will help develop important new technologies to protect our troops and our nation, and help bring those new technologies to commercial markets,” he said.

“Through this initiative, our region will build on its core strengths to become the nation’s technology hub for lightweight materials and manufacturing,” University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman concurred.

In addition to the three founding institutions, the ALMMII consortium includes more than 50 companies, universities, non-profit research institutions, and workforce development intermediaries. The institute is actively seeking more partners to join its team.
Ohio State President Joseph A. Alutto hailed the opportunity to contribute to the endeavor. “We are proud to be working with such an outstanding founding group in establishing this important national institute, which will bring together resources from industry, government, and academia to enhance the region’s competitiveness, create opportunities for students, and generate economic growth,” he said.

The ALMMII team was selected through a competitive process led by the US Department of Defense under the Lightweight and Modern Metals Manufacturing Innovation (LM3I) solicitation issued by the US Navy’s Office of Naval Research. The Institute will receive $70 million in federal funding matched by another $78 million from the consortium partners.

“The mission of ALMMII is to ensure that the US is the world leader in the application of innovative lightweight metal production and component/subsystem manufacturing technologies,” said EWI President and CEO Henry Cialone. “ALMMII will focus on the total value chain for lightweight materials – rapid development, qualification, optimized use, and commercialization of affordable lightweight structures for defense and commercial requirements.”

About EWI
EWI is North America’s leading developer of innovative technology solutions that enhance manufacturing competitiveness. Since 1984, EWI has provided engineering support, R&D, strategic services, and training to leaders in the aerospace, automotive, consumer products, electronics, medical, energy & chemical, government, and heavy manufacturing industries. By matching our expertise in materials joining, forming, and testing to the needs of forward-thinking manufacturers, we are successful in creating effective solutions in product design and production. To learn more, visit www.ewi.org, email info(at)ewi(dot)org, or call 614.688.5000.

About University of Michigan
The University of Michigan has over $1.3 billion in annual research expenditures and more than 100 faculty involved in government- and industry-sponsored manufacturing research and educational programs. Faculty and industry researchers capitalize on the Integrated Computational Materials Engineering Center, NSF Engineering Research Center in Reconfigurable Manufacturing Systems, S.M. Wu Manufacturing Research Center, the General Motors Manufacturing Collaborative Lab and the U.S. Army sponsored Automotive Research Center for materials research. U-M also has a Master’s in Manufacturing Program, the Navy Engineering Education Center and the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

About The Ohio State University
The Ohio State University is a dynamic community of diverse resources, where opportunity thrives and where individuals transform themselves and the world. Founded in 1870, Ohio State is a world-class public research university and the leading comprehensive teaching and research institution in the state of Ohio. With more than 63,000 students (including 57,000 in Columbus), the Wexner Medical Center, 14 colleges, 80 centers and 175 majors, the university offers its students tremendous breadth and depth of opportunity in the liberal arts, the sciences and the professions. Ohio State has research expenditures exceeding $900 million annually.
Contact Information
Rebecca Gurk
EWI
http://www ewi org
+1 (614) 688-5164

Leah Kohr
EWI
http://www.ewi.org
614-688-5049

Online Web 2.0 Version
You can read the online version of this press release here.