

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 8, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
U.S. Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

As you consider full proposals for the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation (DMDI) Institute, we write to express our support for the Digital Lab for Manufacturing ("Digital Lab"), a proposal led by UI LABS, an independent, nonprofit organization based in Chicago.

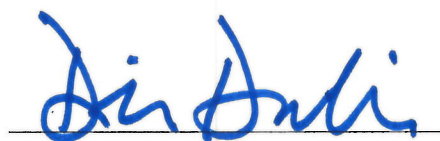
In response to the Department of Defense call for a national institute to focus on complex issues in manufacturing, UI LABS developed a Digital Lab consortium that includes the nation's premier engineering schools, the country's leading defense and commercial manufacturers, one of the world's most powerful supercomputers, and nationally-recognized educational and business development partners. This team is uniquely positioned to develop solutions that leverage digital technology to accelerate the design to production timeline, reducing costs and offsetting risks for the U.S. manufacturing base. This applied research will create jobs in advanced manufacturing fields and make the US economy more competitive.

The team is industry-driven and sustainable in the long term with commitments from top defense and commercial manufacturers and hundreds of small businesses. The Digital Lab's research and state partners are regionally anchored in the Midwest, spanning Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, and Nebraska. Additionally, the team includes world-class partners from beyond the Midwest including Texas, Colorado, New York and Oregon to leverage the best research and technology in the country and deploy solutions on a broad scale. Together commitments from the team's partners exceed \$250 million, more than tripling the commitment of the federal government.

The Midwest-based Digital lab is uniquely positioned to bring transformational returns on the federal government's research and development investment, unlocking billions in value for American manufacturers, expanding access to new technology and opportunity for small manufacturers and creating high-wage, high-skilled jobs for American workers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,



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