

Media Release

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Ohio's UAS Experts Take "Fly Ohio" Message to AUVSI

NEW ORLEANS— A team of Ohio's Unmanned Aerial Systems experts will arrive at XPONENTIAL 2016 Tuesday, ready to share why the Buckeye State's UAS industry continues to grow and thrive.

The global conference by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) marks one of the industry's leading gatherings, featuring more than 600 companies in 20 UAS-related industries. An expected 8,000 industry professionals from 55 countries will attend THE three-day event.

"Ohio's strong aviation industry makes the state a natural fit for UAS" said Maurice McDonald, Dayton Development Coalition's Executive Vice President for Aerospace and Defense. "From the very first UAS back in 1918, Ohio had led the way in creating an environment to support UAS training, research and development, manufacturing and testing."

Each year, the Dayton Development Coalition leads a delegation of Ohio UAS industry experts to showcase the state's UAS strengths and highlight the work of Ohio-based UAS businesses, educational programs, and operational ranges.

The Air Force Research Laboratory and the NASA Glenn Research Center bolster the state's robust reputation for aerospace research and development, with more than \$ 9 Billion invested in R&D each year. Ohio is the number one supplier to Boeing and Airbus, and both companies spend more money in Ohio on their supply chain than any other state.

Ohio's XPONENTIAL delegation will include the DDC's aerospace and aviation team, the UAS Center and Test Complex, SelectTech Services Corp., Sinclair Community College, Wright State Research Institute, Wilmington Air Park, Section 17 Ltd., Black River Systems, Perduco Group and Clark State Community College. These experts will be on hand for the duration of the conference, and will staff a custom-designed booth, #2239, that showcases the state's strengths and leadership in UAS research and development, materials and manufacturing, training and education, and applied capabilities.

Though still primarily a military market, UAS have practical commercial applications such as border patrol, search and rescue, parks and recreation, fire and police assistance, and more. According to an economic study by AUVSI, the UAS industry will see considerable growth over the next several years, and by 2025, it's projected that UAS integration will create more than 100,000 jobs, and have an economic impact upwards of \$82 billion dollars.

Leaders from the state, and at the DDC, have focused economic development and infrastructure efforts on supporting UAS industry growth and development in order to capture a significant share of this market.

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The State of Ohio has unmatched resources, capabilities and opportunities for the UAS community, including UAS training, manufacturing, world-class R&D, systems integration, data analytics, and operational ranges. We offer an exceptional environment for government, industry and academic collaboration. Come see why you should "Fly Ohio."

The Dayton Development Coalition (DDC) is the leading economic development organization for the 14-county Dayton region. Working closely with public and private regional partners, its mission is to retain, expand and recruit jobs. The DDC and the Dayton region ranked as the nation's top metro for economic development in 2008, 2009 and 2012 and runner-up in 2010, 2011, 2014 and 2015. With the State's largest single-site employer in its backyard, the DDC also focuses on advocating for the critical missions at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and supporting the work of the United States Air Force. The DDC was ranked as America's top military community, being honored with the 2015 Community Excellence Award from the Association of Defense Communities and was designated an ADC Great American Defense Community in 2016 – a testament to the collaborative efforts in support of Wright-Patt, America's #1 Air Force Base as ranked by the Air Force Times (2014).

For additional information, contact Shannon Joyce Neal at (937) 231-5436, at sneal@daytonregion.com, or visit the Ohio Booth, #2239.