



Ensuring American Leadership through Regional Tech Hubs

America is at a pivotal moment. We require a national effort both to promote and to protect our leadership in critical and emerging technologies. Only through a strong and determined investment in America's world-leading scientists and entrepreneurs can we retain our preeminence in the face of substantial challenges by China and other nations.

The Department of Commerce's **Regional Technology & Innovation Hubs** (Tech Hubs) align with this national security and economic imperative. The program invests in regions that have existing tech strengths, helping to dramatically expand their local capacity and cementing the regions as global competitors. Congress and the Administration should support, fund, and strengthen the Tech Hubs program to achieve its goals.

Recommendations for Stronger Tech Hubs

#1. Fully fund the Tech Hubs' \$10 billion authorization

Congress should fund the program's full authorization without delay—partial funding cannot deliver the scale of impact the program was designed to achieve.

#2. Extend and enhance the Tech Hubs authority

Based on the program's early impacts, Congress should continue Tech Hubs beyond FY 2027 and make improvements that will unlock further successes.

Tech Hubs Promote American Leadership

Tech Hubs are a key part of a robust and bipartisan response to promote America's tech greatness. Our global competitors, including China, continue to make large, strategic investments with the goal of overtaking America's leadership in biotechnology, critical minerals, quantum information and other industries of the future.¹ The Department of Defense, Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, Heritage Foundation, and many others are concerned about the national and economic security effects of losing our technological edge.²

Fully executed, Tech Hubs are designed to address several priorities:

- Accelerate innovations from discovery to market
- Catalyze private investment in tech deployment
- Grow tech jobs and production in more U.S. regions
- Improve domestic supply chain resilience
- Secure our national defense through tech superiority

How the Tech Hubs Program Operates

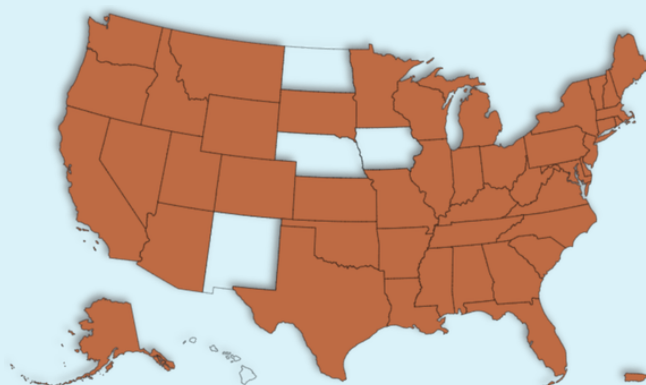
Tech Hubs promote U.S. regions that have the expertise to become global leaders in critical tech sectors, such as quantum, AI, pharmaceuticals, and rare earth minerals.

There are two main components of the program:

-  Identify and *designate* regions as Tech Hubs within critical tech sectors.
Commerce has designated 31 Tech Hubs.³
-  Provide up to \$1 billion per region to *implement* projects that achieve tech dominance.
Commerce has invested just \$674 million across 18 Tech Hubs.⁴

Most states are active Tech Hubs participants.

The 31 designated Tech Hubs, including 18 with implementation awards, cover 34 states, and another 13 states are included in Strategy Development awards.



Advancing Critical and Emerging Tech

The 31 designated Tech Hubs demonstrated core strengths in technologies across eight fields that are crucial to the future of America's national security and economic competition.

Autonomous Systems  3 Tech Hubs	Biomanufacturing  6 Tech Hubs	Critical Minerals  2 Tech Hubs	Energy Technologies  5 Tech Hubs
Materials Manufacturing  4 Tech Hubs	Predictive Medicine  5 Tech Hubs	Semiconductor Manufacturing  4 Tech Hubs	Quantum Technologies  2 Tech Hubs

Tech Hubs Impacts to Date

Designated Tech Hubs have not been waiting for Congress or Commerce to provide the rest of the program's \$10 billion in authorized funding to get to work, leveraging their recognition for regional leadership to secure further funding and partnerships, attract private investment, and advance innovations. Some of these successes to date include the following:

- TTM received support from New York, the **SMART I-Corridor Tech Hub**, and the Department of War to open a \$130 million plant for ultra-high-density printed circuit boards.⁵
- Virginia invested \$3 million in **APM Tech Hub** member Civica Script's new facility that employs 200+ people in making fast-acting and low-cost insulin.⁶
- The **Pacific Northwest Mass Timber Tech Hub** has seen industry and other partners put \$140 million into co-located timber housing and research facilities.⁷
- Startups from the **Polymer Industry Cluster Tech Hub** (Ohio) accelerator are attracting private seed investments (\$7 million), AFWERX awards, and achieving technical milestones.⁸
- Infleqtion, a partner and native of Colorado's **Elevate Quantum Tech Hub**, opened a new 80K ft² headquarters and innovation facility, following its initial public offering.⁹
- **Nevada Tech Hub**'s investment grew a local advanced manufacturing talent development program from 85 to 700 active apprentices.¹⁰
- **Heartland BioWorks** is constructing a 20K ft² center to train biomanufacturing workers for a new, \$18 billion Eli Lilly plant and other Indiana facilities.¹¹
- **KC BioHub** saw six research and manufacturing plant expansions in its first designation year, accelerating the Kansas City region's momentum.¹²
- **Birmingham Bio Innovation Corp. Tech Hub** has leveraged over \$120 million in public and private investment toward the region's life science infrastructure.¹³
- WindShape opened a 20K ft² drone testing facility and offers services that accelerate unmanned systems in partnership with **Tulsa Tech Hub** and the Osage Nation.¹⁴
- A biomanufacturing Reshoring Task Force supported by **PRBio Tech Hub** facilitated \$1.8 billion across four private facility investments with fast-track permitting, workforce, and other solutions.¹⁵
- **Ocean Tech Hub** secured \$29 million in state funding, contributing to \$244+ million in private capital investment in new facilities and projects throughout Southeastern New England.¹⁶
- New associate biotech degree programs and K-12 career exposure initiatives are available to students through the **Wisconsin BioHealth Tech Hub**.¹⁷
- The 31 designated Tech Hubs have secured support from more than 500 firms and industry groups, alongside another 900 total entities.¹⁸

For these and other Tech Hubs stories, visit regionalinnovationalliance.org/tech-hubs-news.

Improving the Tech Hubs Program

The 31 designated Tech Hubs have achieved impressive results, despite federal investment well below what Congress identified as necessary when it created the program. Two actions would achieve further impacts and ensure regions achieve the program's goal of leveraging regional capacity to secure America's national security and global economic competitiveness.

#1. Fully fund the Tech Hubs' \$10 billion authorization

Fully funding the program will allow the Department of Commerce to support additional Tech Hub implementation projects, including new tech demonstration facilities, workforce training initiatives, and startup acceleration programs. Such efforts translate regional research strengths into commercial and operational capacity and unlock additional opportunities for Tech Hubs to partner with the private sector and defense industry, more quickly bringing emerging products to market and into the hands of warfighters. Through these projects and partnerships, investing in Tech Hubs will help to reassert American leadership in critical technology sectors at a moment when global competitors are investing aggressively to take our place.

#2. Extend and enhance the Tech Hubs authority

Based on their experience utilizing Tech Hubs designation and implementation funds to strengthen their regional technology sectors over the past three years, the designated Tech Hubs have identified a set of seven modest improvements for the program's future:

1. Extend the Tech Hubs authorization through FY 2032.
2. Facilitate regional momentum with funding for all designated regions.
3. Unlock capital access for aligned startups by enabling seed investments.
4. Cap EDA's use of program appropriations for administrative costs.
5. Ensure Tech Hubs reinvest in their regions by channeling program income uses.
6. Strengthen Tech Hubs designation through alignment with other programs.
7. Encourage EDA to invest appropriated funds more quickly.

The Tech Hubs have prepared a memo offering further explanation for each of these suggested improvements for the program. Contact info@regionalinnovationalliance.org.

For Further Information

Contact the Regional Innovation Alliance to learn more about:

- The national Tech Hubs program
- The impacts and progress that designated Tech Hubs are making in their regions
- Why immediate federal funding at the authorized level is necessary to maximize success
- How to add your support

Email info@regionalinnovationalliance.org

End Notes

1. In March 2025, China announced a planned \$138 billion investment in chips, quantum computing, robotics, and AI; see Gan, N. & Liu, J. (2025, Mar. 10). “China announces high-tech fund to grow AI, emerging industries.” CNN. [cnn.com/2025/03/06/tech/china-state-venture-capital-guidance-fund-intl-hnk](https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/06/tech/china-state-venture-capital-guidance-fund-intl-hnk). This follows a ramp-up of China’s research spending that approaches parity with the U.S.; see OECD. (2025, Mar. 31). “R&D spending growth slows in OECD, surges in China.” [oecd.org/en/data/insights/statistical-releases/2025/03/rd-spending-growth-slows-in-oecd-surges-in-china-government-support-for-energy-and-defence-rd-rises-sharply.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/data/insights/statistical-releases/2025/03/rd-spending-growth-slows-in-oecd-surges-in-china-government-support-for-energy-and-defence-rd-rises-sharply.html).
2. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute’s Critical Tech Tracker benchmarks nations in 74 technologies and most recently found China to be leading across 69 sectors; see [aspi.org.au/programs/critical-technology-tracker/](https://www.aspi.org.au/programs/critical-technology-tracker/). See U.S. Department of Defense. (2023). *National Defense Science & Technology Strategy*. <https://media.defense.gov/2023/May/09/2003218877/-1/-1/0/NDSTS-FINAL-WEB-VERSION.PDF> for recognition of China’s R&D investments as a threat. For the Heritage Foundation, see Carafano, J. et al. (2023, Mar. 28). “Winning the New Cold War: A Plan for Countering China” Heritage Foundation. [heritage.org/china/report/winning-the-new-cold-war-plan-countering-china](https://www.heritage.org/china/report/winning-the-new-cold-war-plan-countering-china). For the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF), see Atkinson, R. (2024, Sep. 16). “China Is Rapidly Becoming a Leading Innovator in Advanced Industries.” ITIF. itif.org/publications/2024/09/16/china-is-rapidly-becoming-a-leading-innovator-in-advanced-industries/.
3. For the list of 31 Tech Hubs designees made in 2023 (and subsequent implementation awardees), see: eda.gov/funding/programs/regional-technology-and-innovation-hubs/2023.
4. See reference #3.
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6. Breakthrough T1D. (2025, Aug. 7). breakthrough1d.org/for-the-media/press-releases/governor-glenn-youngkin-announces-3-million-grant-to-support-civicas-affordable-insulin-programs/.
7. Port of Portland. (2025, June 11). portofportland.com/Newsroom/Story/port-announces-partnership-with-zts-on-new-mass-timber-factory-boosting-jobs-and-modular-housing-construction-for-the-region.
8. Bounce Innovation Hub. (n.d.). bouncehub.org/blog/synthe6-startups-build-momentum-cohort-enters-final-stretch-nick-glavan-program-director.
9. Berdychowski, B. (2026, Aug. 19). *Denver Gazette*. denvergazette.com/2026/08/19/colorados-inflection-opens-new-hq-as-it-races-to-commercialize-quantum.
10. Kirkpatrick, K. (2026, Jan. 6). TMCC. tmcc.edu/news/2026/01/building-future-advanced-manufacturing-tesla.
11. Cruz, J. (2026, May 19). WIBC. wibc.com/887283/24m-heartland-bioworks-tech-hub-breaks-ground-in-indy.
12. BioNexus KC. (2025). bionexuskc.org/reports.
13. Correspondence with the Tech Hub.
14. Tulsa Innovation Labs. (2025, Sep. 25). tulsainnovationlabs.com/post/windshape-opens-first-u-s-facility-in-tulsa.
15. Correspondence with the Tech Hub.
16. Correspondence with the Tech Hub.
17. Wisconsin Economic Development. (2026, July 21). wedc.org/wisconsin-biohealth-tech-hub-builds-partnerships-to-meet-workforce-demand.
18. EDA. (2024, Apr. 23). eda.gov/news/blog/2024/04/23/tech-hubs-submit-blueprints-strengthening-critical-industries-future.