



U.S. SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL

WASHINGTON

Stakeholder Statements: Spokane's American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center

"We at Gonzaga are very excited to learn of this significant designation by the EDA," said Thayne McCulloh, president of Gonzaga University. **"The consortium supporting this application represents a dynamic partnership of leaders in industry, research, education, state, local and tribal governments, and workforce, all collaborating to achieve high-rate production goals for the next generation of aerospace manufacturing. We are very grateful to Senator Cantwell for making this program a reality through her leadership passing the CHIPS and Science Act and for her essential support of our application. Working with our partners at Lakeside Companies, this incredible group of innovators is well-positioned and ready to create future opportunities right here in the Inland Northwest."**

"American leadership in aerospace manufacturing strengthens national security and can put the Inland Northwest at the global center for thermoplastic composites. To reverse the trend towards foreign suppliers, we need to build upon our existing strengths and domesticate our own supply chains," says David Weeks, COO of Lakeside Companies. **"The aerospace and defense sectors are already demanding faster adoption of these materials and the ability to produce parts at higher rates. Our consortium brings together industry and some of the best academic institutions in the U.S., leading composites suppliers, critical economic and labor development groups, tribal nations, local leaders and more to establish this world-class test bed for production, commercialization and entrepreneurial endeavors to solve that. We are proud to be a part of that effort through the American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center project, and we appreciate all that Senator Cantwell has done to support this effort and the aerospace industry in the Pacific Northwest."**

"Making sure future workers have the necessary tools to continue setting the bar in aviation and simultaneously addressing climate concerns by working on solutions to make aircraft more fuel-efficient is the key to keeping Washington State a leader in aerospace innovation. That's why we are excited about the Spokane-based American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center being designated as a U.S. tech hub," said IAM District 751 President and Directing Business Representative Jon Holden. **"This new U.S. hub will not only foster great jobs but also build capacity for the next generation of workers in our region, carrying on the legacy of aerospace in Washington. Together, we are creating jobs and a clean future for the global aviation industry by investing in our State and our workers, and we thank Senator Cantwell for leading the effort to pass the CHIPS and Science Act which created the tech hub program."**

"As the aerospace sector continues to diversify, the availability and maturity of materials technology are becoming increasingly important," said Dawn Lovely, Senior Director of Manufacturing for Blue Origin. **"The American Aerospace Materials Manufacturing Center is well positioned to generate a pipeline of advanced materials to support new capabilities and manufacturing methods so companies like Blue Origin can evaluate how they fit into the future of the space industry. We thank Senator**

Cantwell for leading passage of the CHIPS and Science Act and working to support this Tech Hub and the future of the domestic aerospace supply chain.”

“At the Washington State Department of Commerce, we are thrilled to see this investment from the Federal Government in our state,” said Director Fong. **“Investments like these will only grow our economy and advance our workforce all while pushing towards our broader decarbonization goals. I’m incredibly proud to see partnerships such as this consortium with public, private, labor and educational institutions all working together to ensure the strongest investments are made in Washington State.”**

"The Northwest I-90 Manufacturing Alliance is proud to support our regional effort to establish a technology hub in Spokane," said Mark Norton, chairman of the Northwest I-90 Manufacturing Alliance. **"Special credit goes to Gonzaga University and Lakeside companies for leading this initiative, and to Senator Cantwell's team for supporting our work. This is a critical first step in creating an advanced research institute that will support our nation's global leadership in manufacturing."**

“Today’s announcement by the U.S. Department of Commerce of the approval of our regional application to be designated as the U.S. Tech Hub for aerospace materials manufacturing will forever change the trajectory of our economy as it relates to aerospace-related growth,” said Larry Krauter, CEO of Spokane International Airport. **“The Tech Hub will provide critical resources to the innovative aerospace-related businesses already located in the region as well as create opportunities to recruit new strategic partners across the entire spectrum from academic research all the way through production of components for future civil and military aerial platforms. We want to recognize and thank Senator Cantwell, not only as the architect of the CHIPS & Science Act, but as a long-time and strong supporter of our region’s efforts to grow the aerospace sector to provide good jobs and to attract investment. Senator Cantwell was instrumental in encouraging our community to pursue this transformational opportunity. We would also like to recognize and thank Gonzaga University and Lakeside Capital for their leadership and all the stakeholders who supported the application. We are excited to get to work with the team!”**

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