



MID-OHIO REGIONAL
MORPC
PLANNING COMMISSION

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August 11, 2023

TO: Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Suite 7800
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Economic Development Administration's FY 2023 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program Phase 1

The members of the Silicon Heartland-Appalachia Regional Engine for Semiconductors (SHARES) Consortium are pleased to submit this application in response to the Economic Development Administration's FY 2023 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program Phase 1 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

As indicated in our response to the Request for Information in March 2023, we recognize that the Tech Hubs Program represents an unparalleled opportunity to accelerate Columbus Region-Southeast Ohio's development into a self-sustaining, globally competitive region in our key technology focus area: high performance computing, semiconductors, and advanced computer hardware and software.

Members of our consortium represent leading private and public sector organizations that have a long history of working together effectively to advance economic development. We also want to ensure that all our residents – regardless of income, race, age, or other demographic factors – have the ability live, work, and raise a family in our growing region.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is serving as the lead consortium member for the application. MORPC is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio representing more than 80 local governments. Our communities span urban, suburban, and Appalachian areas, comprising a broad cross-section of Ohioans.

MORPC acknowledges the responsibilities of the consortium lead in section A.1.b.iv. of the NOFO. We are in the process of hiring a Regional Innovation Officer to coordinate the consortium, as well as awaiting a determination on its application to EDA for designation as an Economic Development District.

Joining us as co-convenors of the consortium are two of Ohio's leading economic development organizations, the Columbus Partnership and Ohio Southeast, forming a team that is well-positioned with the requisite resources to implement the Tech Hubs Program in partnership with leaders from industry, higher education, venture capital, organized labor, and local governments.

William Murdock, AICP
Executive Director

Erik J. Janas
Chair

Chris Amorose Groomes
Vice Chair

Michelle Crandall
Secretary

Given the region's track record of collaboration, ongoing coordination, and significant preparation in submitting this application, we are seeking Designation Only.

We acknowledge that each member of the consortium has read the application and is committed to executing its roles, responsibilities, and commitments related to the Tech Hubs Program. Further, if Designation is awarded, we recognize that commitments must be specified in greater detail for the purpose of Phase 2 implementation.

Kind regards,

William Murdock
Executive Director
Mid-Ohio Regional Planning
Commission

Kenny McDonald
President and CEO
Columbus Partnership

Glenda Baumgardner
President and CEO
Appalachian Partnership/
OH SE

Dr. Lori Gonzalez
President
Ohio University

Shawn Fetterolf
Director of Federal Strategy
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Peter Mohler
Executive Vice President
Interim Enterprise for Research,
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Head of Data Center
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Board

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Co-Founder and Partner
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