

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 06, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
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 that includes partnerships with Iowa State University, University of Iowa and University of Northern Iowa.

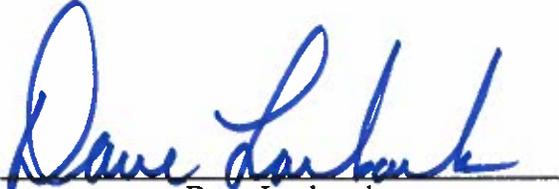
In response to the Department of Defense's call for a national institute to focus on complex issues in manufacturing, UI LABS developed a Digital Lab consortium that includes premier engineering schools, leading defense and commercial manufacturers, the world's most powerful supercomputer, and nationally-recognized educational and business development partners. This team is 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 U.S. economy more competitive.

The team is industry driven, with commitments from defense and commercial manufacturers including Rockwell Collins, General Electric, Lockheed Martin, Rolls-Royce, Procter & Gamble, Siemens, Dassault Systèmes, Boeing, Caterpillar, John Deere, General Dynamics and hundreds of small businesses. The Digital Lab's research and state partners are regionally anchored in the Midwest, spanning Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Missouri, and Nebraska. Additionally, the Digital Lab's team includes partners from across the country, including from Texas, Colorado, New York and Oregon to leverage research and technology 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.

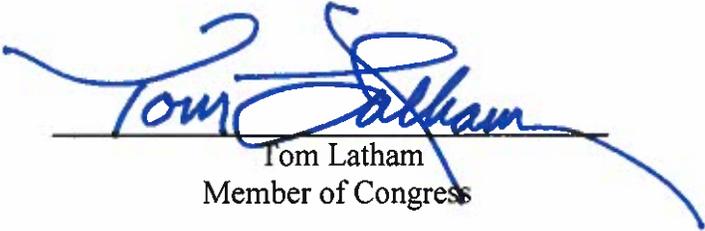
The Midwest-based Digital lab is positioned to bring significant returns on the federal government's research and development investment, unlocking value for American manufacturers, expanding access to new technology and opportunity for small manufacturers, and creating high-wage, high-skilled jobs for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

For these reasons, we urge you to give the Digital Lab for Manufacturing proposal full consideration.

Sincerely,



Dave Loeb sack  
Member of Congress



Tom Latham  
Member of Congress



Steve King  
Member of Congress



Bruce Braley  
Member of Congress