

BUSINESS

'Go To' State Is UML Goal Outlined at PCDA Session

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To establish Oklahoma as the "go to" state for sensor development, test, evaluation, certification and commercialization is the goal of the Oklahoma State University Multispectral Laboratories (UML). That message was a part of a presentation to the Ponca City Development Authority at the Thursday meeting.

David Myers, PCDA executive director, presented a power point program that was prepared for members of the Oklahoma Legislature, who recently toured the Ponca City University Multispectral Oklahoma State University sensor testing center here, as well as, the Richmond Lab at Stillwater.

Both of these projects are part of the OSU Rural/Urban Technology Enterprise Region.

Among the OSU major initiatives are to increase engagement with the private sector with collaborations, sponsored research, and training.

Also to increase technology commercialization, licenses and spin-off companies and to become a top research university.

The Ponca City UML is located at the ConocoPhillips complex in the former Research East building. The 72,000 square foot building is a gift from ConocoPhillips.

The labs in Ponca City are to be for testing, evaluation and certification for CBRNE sensors, C4ISR sensors and related technologies, biometrics and PSYOPS. The Richmond Hill Research Center in Stillwater is for research on chemical surety, biological safety, anechoic Chamber for

Chem-Bio and C4ISR testing and evaluation.

The facilities are owned by OSU and contractor operated. The contractor is Applied Marine Technology Incorporated (AMTI), which was recently acquired by Science Applications International Corp (SAIC).

Goals of the OSU sensor research program are to build a technology-based economy in North Central Oklahoma and create high paying jobs for Oklahomans. Eleven positions have been created to date.

Other features are attracting new businesses to Oklahoma. Two of these firms are from out-of-state. These are Quicksilver and Nantero. Another goal is to promote creation of spin-off companies. Multiple sensor-based start-up companies already created from OSU technology in recent years.

The labs will be a national resource for the Department of Defense, Department of Home Land Security and industry. Currently support is being sought for a federally funded research and development center through the Department of Homeland Security. Test and evaluation facilities currently are for outdoor testing Chillico and Roswell, New Mexico.