

The Mid-west Air Force Collider, held virtually in early December, brought the U.S. Air Force and the small business community across the region together to connect and collaborate. The event, hosted by Wichita State University Strategic Initiatives, in collaboration with the Kansas SBDC, aids the Air Force and small businesses in seeking and developing innovative technologies and processes to strengthen the Air Force industrial base and commercialize technologies for new market opportunities.

A total of 17 Air Force representatives from Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois participated in the event, which thirteen new technologies were pitched. Each team was given 15 minutes to pitch and answer any questions from the Air Force representatives and the SBA members. Lt. Col. Doug Snead Chief of the XPX Innovation Lab at McConnell Air Force Base assisted in coordinating this event.

“I think the most important takeaway from this event was just how much more efficient and effective it was at connecting innovators with potential USAF customers,” said Snead.

The next collider event is planned for April 26-30. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/midwestafcollider>.

Participating Teams:

- Free Piston Engine - Pressure Augmentation Device designed to replace turbine engine combustors with a new hybrid high-pressurized exhaust gas source for increasing turbine engine efficiency.
- Surface Finish Center (Auto Sanding Cell) - Automated Surface Finish Center combines uniform surface material removal with machine controlled pressure and automatic 3D path generation using 3D scanning technology.
- ACES Advanced Collaboration Enterprise Services (ACES) Advanced Collaboration and Integration between workspaces. Share anything, anywhere and anytime.
- Electronic Security Strap - Unique combination locking fingerprint release that emits calling and tracking with accelerometer capabilities when breached, with removable, renewable, and replaceable strap that provides continual use of the system.
- ESP DLUX™ (Elevated Health Systems) - Eradicates viruses including COVID-19 and other life-threatening pathogens in enclosed spaces without creating anti-microbial resistance for unprecedented biosecurity.
- EIOS (Forcyte) – Calculates power transmission efficiencies through filters of climatology, atmosphere, and terrain, anywhere in the world, while also analyzing the operational health and safety risk range.
- Questable - Mobile virtual reality and augmented reality application, that aids universities and the military in the recruitment and retention of prospective recruits on college campuses.
- 24/7 Flight Solar Platforms – Provides a robust and inexpensive lifting body platform for 24/7 collection of energy to sustain airborne carriers and energy harvesting.

- Pesticide Application - Technology for pesticide application equipment to drastically reduce hazardous product exposure to operators, labor requirements, and product waste.
- Cruise Fuel - Improvement of cruise fuel efficiency of the C-130H equipped with NP2000 propellers by redesigning the engine inlet provide creating operational cost savings and life cycle benefits.
- ARViS - Collaboration platform that expedites the identification of aircraft defects and their repair through augmented reality and streamlined document sharing and approval.
- Hybrid Cube - Ruggedized ISO container that is a micro-grid in a box.
- Shadow Staging Tool - Highly mobile system with a small footprint. Expanding to provide barrier free physical and visual tool access for rapid asset repair and simple tool inventory control.