



AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2025

Time	SESSION	SPEAKER
8:00 AM	Breakfast and Registration	
9:00 AM	Welcome & Kickoff BALLROOM CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Scott Snyder, University of North Dakota • Amber Orr, IEEE-USA • Tim Lee, 2025 IEEE-USA President • Welcome Video from Senator Kevin Cramer
9:15 AM	AI & Autonomy – The Innovation DOD Needs BALLROOM CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connie Kelly, IEEE Region 4 (Introduction) • Eric Lam, AFRL Regional Network- Midwest
9:45 AM	How to Get Involved in North Dakota Innovation Ecosystems BALLROOM CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mark Askelson, University of North Dakota, Moderator • Dr. Noel Anderson, Grand Farm • Scott Meyer, GrandSKY (North Dakota State Senator – 18th District) • Jodie Mjoen, Impact Dakota • Seth Simonson, North Dakota State College of Science
10:30 AM	Networking Break	
11:00 - 11:50 AM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	1) Air and Space Autonomy ROOM A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terri Zimmerman, Packet Digital and Botlink, Moderator • Collin Newberry, Northern Plains UAS Test Site • John Sawyer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense • Dr. Rex Sun, North Dakota State University
	2) Ground Autonomy ROOM B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Denver Tolliver, Upper Grand Plains Transportation Institute, Moderator • Dr. Noel Anderson, Grand Farm • Maynard Factor, Kratos Defense • Alex Rudin, MITRE • Srikrishna Sallam, NS Alpha Holdings, LLC
12:00 PM	Networking Lunch and Fireside Chat with DARPA BALLROOM CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Andrew Armacost, President, University of North Dakota • Phillip Smith, Tactical Technology Office, DARPA
1:15 PM	Remarks from the Mayor BALLROOM CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandon Bochenski, Mayor, City of Grand Forks



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1:30 - 2:15 PM	Investing in AI and Autonomy BALLROOM CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cortnee Jensen, University of North Dakota, Moderator • Kodee Furst, 50 South Capital • Scott Schofield, Northrop Grumman • Ben Stanley, gener8tor 1889
2:20 - 3:15 PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS	
	1) Education and Workforce ROOM A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janna Pastir, North Dakota Department of Commerce, Moderator • Dr. Thomas Clausen, 3M • Becca Cruger, Greater Grand Forks: Way Cooler than You Think! • Dr. Kerry Hartman, Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College • Megan Ueland, Northrop Grumman
	2) Issues Related to Small Businesses ROOM B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Haut, U.S. Small Business Administration, Moderator • Doug McDonald, ISight Drone Services • Stoen Mollman, South Dakota SBIR • Pete Haga, Thread • John Ryan, The HIVE
3:20 PM	Break	
3:35 PM	What's Next for AI, Autonomy, and North Dakota BALLROOM CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wes Ryan, Northrop Grumman, Aeronautics Systems • Dr. Mark Askelson, University of North Dakota • Russell Harrison, IEEE-USA
4:00 PM	Wrap-Up and Adjourn BALLROOM CD	

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