



## INNOVATION HAPPENS HERE

We help Montana build technologies that matter - globally and locally. Anchored in smart optical sensing systems and their applications in key sectors for Montana, we work to drive innovation, spur entrepreneurship, and ensure equitable access to high-quality jobs across our state.

## PRIORITIES FOR MONTANA

**Catalyze Innovation** through shared technology infrastructure as a community resource.

**Workforce Development** to ensure Montanans are prepared to compete for and thrive in high tech jobs, spreading the benefits of a robust tech economy across the state and region.

**Capital Access & Entrepreneurship** by increasing investment into our regional tech economy.

**People & Place**, because at the end of the day the point of our work is to make life better for our families, our neighbors, and our communities. We are intentional in our efforts to stay connected to people and place, and to advocate for the communities we serve.

## SUCCESSES

**Operationalize Testbeds** for testing and demonstrating optical sensing technologies for companies including Flash Forest.

**New MSU Faculty Hire** focused on photonic integrated circuits.

**Equipment Purchases at MSU and Phix** for integrated photonics, and first production runs at Phix.

**Salish Kootenai College** has enrolled over 200 students in optics and photonics-aligned programming and has awarded over \$250,000 in scholarships to support student education in aligned fields.

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



# PROJECT PORTFOLIO

The US Economic Development Agency (EDA) awarded the HTH \$41 million from 2024-2029 to support a lean operational team and four focused projects.

## Real World Testbeds

Market impact depends on technologies performing in the harsh environments of the real world. We make testing and demonstration in those environments possible, with testbeds in mountain forests, underground mines, farms, and rangeland. (UM, MSU, Montana Tech, Grand Farm)

## Supporting Tribal Education Pathways

Growing a stronger STEM workforce requires multiple onramps accessible across geographies and backgrounds. We are advancing the current and future rural and indigenous STEM workforce with competitive skills for community and national security support. (SKC)

## Integrated Photonics Ecosystem

Next generation sensors will be smaller, lighter, lower power, and cheaper, all via Photonics Integrated Circuit (PIC) technology. We are building a PIC product development pipeline in Montana, keeping our industry at the forefront. (MPQA, Phix Inc., MSU)

## Advanced Test and Calibration Education

As Montana's photonics industry evolves, our university-based training must as well. We are building a photonic sensor systems training facility at MSU, as a stepping stone toward a undergraduate photonics engineering degree program (MSU)

**Our vision is to leverage these initial federally funded projects into a broader portfolio of initiatives aligned with our strategic priorities and supported by a balanced mix of industry, government, and philanthropic funds.**

## HTH BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Joseph Thiel**, Montana University System (board chair)

**Jason Yager**, Montana Photonics & Quantum Alliance  
(board vice chair)

**Antony Berthelote**, Salish Kootenai College

**Scott L Whittenburg**, University of Montana

**Alison Harmon**, Montana State University

**Jim Curry**, Aurora

**Joanna Mikulski**, America Achieves

**Jenny Harms**, Accelerate Montana

**Todd O'Hair**, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Simon Coon**, Reveal Technology

**Grant Kier**, Missoula Economic Partnership

**Tammie Hickey**, Montana State Workforce Innovation Board

**Marta Bertoglio**, Montana Dept of Commerce

**Misty Kuhl**, Montana Office of Indian Affairs

**Tim VanReken**, Executive Director & Regional Innovation Officer

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