

Press Release

Congressman Neil Abercrombie to deliver welcome address at the inaugural NT-CAACTUS/PACCAR Summit

Congressman Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii), senior congressman representing the 1st District of Hawaii will welcome the participants of the Inaugural Summit of the Non Traditional Center for Advanced Anti-Corrosion for Undersea (NT-CAACTUS)/Pacific Coalition for Applied Research (PACCAR) Summit, which will take place at the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii in Manoa on December 1-3. This is a gathering of scientists, business leaders and government officials to kick off a new program that will expedite the transition of emerging advanced technologies to Federal and Commercial applications using Open Innovation frameworks.

Under the leadership of the United States Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Undersea Technology Directorate, a collaborative community of government agencies, universities, industry and innovation companies is planning to bridge the “innovation valley of death” which delays the transition of new innovations to operational deployment. PACCAR is the Hawaii node of the a nation-wide Coalition for Applied Research (CAR), which seeks to bring together academia, small business, major industry, government laboratories and other research and development establishments into an Open Innovation community to address long standing technological challenges facing the nation. NT-CAACTUS is the first in a series of Non Traditional Centers of Excellence (NTCE) that will target key technology areas that are critical to the Federal government and industry.

Federal agencies and industry spend billions of dollars every year to battle and control corrosion of important assets. The proposed center will create the opportunity for new anti-corrosion discoveries to be quickly transitioned to operations by providing the infrastructure to support their validation and qualification for operational use. The diversity of the microclimates on the Hawaiian Islands, along with the nationally acclaimed corrosion laboratory at the University of Hawaii Manoa, makes Hawaii a unique choice for the establishment of this center. The summit is co-sponsored by NAVSEA Undersea Technology Directorate, DARPA, US Army Picatinny Arsenal, University of Hawaii, Guide Star Engineering LLC, Oceanit Inc., Pacific Engineering Inc., Epitaxial Technologies Inc., Trex Enterprises, RRM&A LLC, and organized by the American Heritage Defense Corporation (AHDC), a non profit 501(c)3 research and development corporation based in Washington DC.