In June 2020, CDME launched the SBRD initiative. The program, developed alongside the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment, was designed to provide product development support for Ohio small businesses, startups, and inventors. CDME pools new ideas, narrows down the field of candidates, and works with GDI Partners to host technology pitch days for selected companies to present their solutions and articulate how their idea supports the defense mission.

Projects are undertaken in three different rounds spanning 18 months, with approximately seven technologies chosen in each round.

In the first round, Ohio State interacted with 35 small businesses presenting 44 new technologies. Seven technology solutions were down-selected, and prototype development is underway. Following the down-selection process, the selected companies and technologies were presented to U.S. Combatant Commands Science & Technology Scouts at the August 2020 TRIAD event.

One of the seven technologies, developed by NODIS, was picked by the scouts to be fast-tracked for deployment to our warfighters.

“NODIS TruTint is revolutionizing windows, making them smart, with electrically switchable color, tint and infrared - reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions by 50%. NODIS is using its smart glass technology to create camouflage glass that adapts to the environment.

Through the SBRD Program, CDME is developing the controllers used to control our smart glass and then testing NODIS camouflage smart glass to ensure reliability and operation in extreme environments. We are excited to have CDME work with us on this important and challenging productization of TruTint camouflage smart glass.”

Michael Holt
NODIS, Investor | Board Director | Strategic Advisor