

Update from Meeting with Congresswoman McCollum and GreaterMSP

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All,

I met with Congresswoman McCollum and Michael Langley this afternoon. Many others there, both state and private companies.

Two items of discussion.

First, the US Army Futures Command is still underway. We haven't been notified as to whether we are moving on, but then again, we haven't been told we aren't. General consensus was that if the Army is smart they will include us, if only because the Congresswoman is on the Defense Appropriations committee.

To that end, can we think about what we would want to participate in with respect to a visit? Who would represent us, etc. I don't think they will want a dog and pony show, but if they do, what would "wow" them the most at the U. In terms of representation, I would suggest AI and myself representing the U. AI could do all the "smart" stuff and I'd be the pretty face talking about how great we are.

Second, the Congresswoman has suggested to the State and GreaterMSP that they convene a "Defense innovation and technology roundtable" that would be an industry group similar to Medical Alley. Details to be worked out (governance, budget, etc.) but I provisionally told the group that we would be happy to participate. St. Thomas was also there and Doug Hennes said the same.

No actions on the second as of right now. They (GreaterMSP) are going to talk to the larger companies in town. The only big company at this meeting was Polaris and they said they were in. GreaterMSP wants to take the temperature of the other F500 companies, but I suspect they will want to move forward. In terms of what this will be, think Medical Alley. They were used as the "poster child" about a dozen times in terms of what the defense sector industry can do to present itself to the community, the state, and the Feds.

If this does move forward, we will need to think about who at the U would be the right person to represent us, at least initially as details are worked out.

Thank you.
Matt

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