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**SENEEDIA Marks 20 Years of Defense Industry Leadership**

*Anniversary Celebrations to Include a Summit on the national Shipbuilding Workforce Demands as Part of Defense Innovation Days*

**MIDDLETOWN, RI** - SENEDIA, the alliance for defense tech, talent, and innovation, is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year with a renewed commitment to supporting the defense industry. As part of this milestone, SENEDIA's signature convening, Defense Innovation Days, will include a Department of Defense Summit which will examine the national demand for shipbuilding workers.

“In the 20 years since SENEDIA was formed, the defense industry continues to be a powerful force for technology innovation, economic growth and workforce development,” said **Molly Donohue Magee**, SENEDIA's Executive Director. “SENEEDIA supports and accelerates that force, bringing together the most innovative companies with the talent pipeline of tomorrow and key defense policy leaders in service of our national strength and security. Our organization is stronger than ever, our members are more innovative than ever, and our work is more important than ever as we collectively work to protect national security.”

Defense Innovation Days will be a convening for defense industry leaders and national security experts from around the country. All attendees at Defense Innovation Days will have the opportunity to attend the shipbuilding workforce DoD summit. SENEDIA will host the in-person Defense Innovation Days from 29 to 31 August at the Newport RI Marriot. Sponsorships are sold out and registration is nearly sold out.

“The caliber of speakers, the demand for industry showcase spaces, and the consistently sold-out audiences of Defense Innovation Days speak to the incredible reputation that SENEDIA has in the defense industry landscape,” said **Tim DelGiudice**, chair of the SENEDIA Board of Directors and associate director of government relations at Raytheon.

SENEEDIA incorporated in 2002 in response to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, which had the potential to close military installations across New England and the nation. SENEDIA became a critical advocate for the importance of the regional military and defense infrastructure.

“SENEDIA played a critical role in defense strength then and continues to play a critical role today,” said **Bob Mushen**, SENEDIA’s first-ever Board of Directors chair. “I’m proud to have been a part of the organization’s history, and I want to thank and congratulate Molly and her team for taking SENEDIA to new heights on behalf of not only the SENEDIA member businesses, but on behalf of all Americans, as well.”

Advocacy for defense businesses small and large continues to be a core part of SENEDIA’s mission, as does connecting defense leaders with supply chain companies to accelerate key initiatives such as cyber resiliency, technology innovation, and submarine shipbuilding. These connections—including contracting and partnership building opportunities—happen year-round, through SENEDIA sponsored Tech Talks, networking, and other events.

*To learn more about SENEDIA and Defense Innovation Days, visit [www.senedia.org](http://www.senedia.org). To learn more about SENEDIA’s Shipbuilding Workforce Development efforts visit [www.buildsubmarines.com](http://www.buildsubmarines.com). Media interested in attending Defense Innovation Days should reach out to [press@senedia.org](mailto:press@senedia.org).*

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**SENEDIA**, the alliance for defense tech, talent, and innovation, is a catalyst for thought leadership, technical innovation, and workforce development. SENEDIA connects, convenes, and partners to support defense industry talent, innovation, and growth. For more information on SENEDIA, visit [www.senedia.org](http://www.senedia.org).