



# ACADEMIA • INDUSTRY • MILITARY HYBRID INNOVATIONS

Brought to you by the Michigan Air National Guard, the Kelly Johnson Joint All-Domain Innovation Center, and ARCWERX

# ACCELERATING INNOVATION

The AIM-HI program is an abbreviation for Academy • Industry • Military • Hybrid • Innovations. The program connects top shelf research universities, entrepreneurial companies, and the Air National Guard to develop creativity and innovation skills, facilitate problem solving, break barriers, anticipate the future, out-compete existing and new adversaries, and accelerate decision cycles.

## MISSION

The AIM-HI's mission is to democratize creativity and innovation, which means to develop creative members of the Air National Guard (ANG) to build cohesive diverse teams that out-think, out-innovate, and out-compete anyone in the world. Developing a creative military means developing the essential four components of the ANG:



**CREATIVE  
MINDSET**



**CREATIVE  
CULTURE**



**CREATIVE  
CAPABILITY**



**CREATIVE  
COMMUNITY**

## GOALS

AIM-HI accelerates the knowledge and technology transfer from research agenda (exploration phase) to application, provides a line of sight to potential solutions to existing problems, and facilitates collaborations between researchers and the warfighters to rapidly produce proofs of concept. As such, AIM-HI seeks to bypass the regularly lengthy process of traditional technology transfer and directly connects identified key stakeholders to accelerate the creation of new innovative solutions.



### APPLICATION

Creative entrepreneurial organizations

### MATURATION

Technology transfer hubs

### EXPLORATION

Research institutions with scope and scale



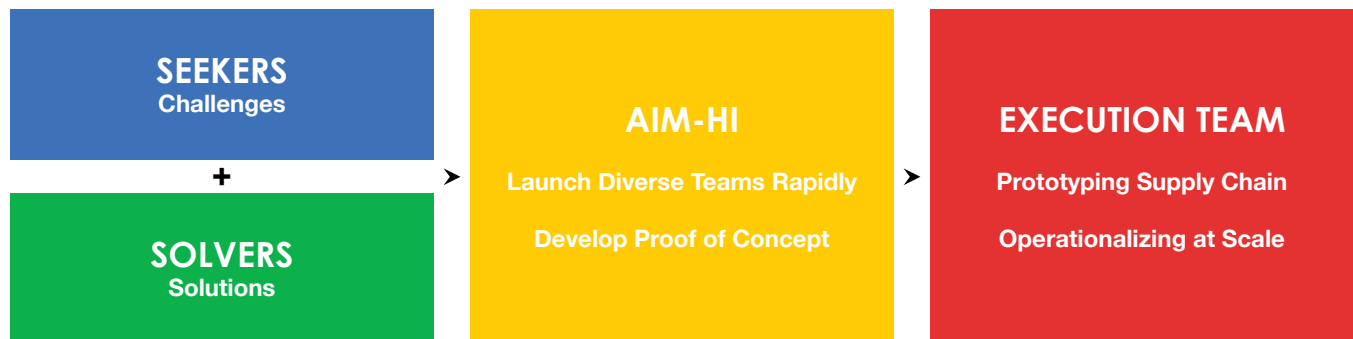
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# PROCESS

AIM-HI program functions as a **connective tissue** to various innovation elements in the innovation ecosystem, connecting seekers, those in the military with a problem with solvers, those in industry or higher education institutions with potential solutions, and finding a team to execute once the proof of concept has been vetted. It focuses on solving unique problems that require interdisciplinary collaborations—problems that touch multiple fields—by rapidly designing new innovative solutions (dual-use technology) through launching and accelerating highly diverse teams of key stakeholders that may include researchers, Airmen, students, faculty, start-ups, Venture Capitals, etc.

## STEPS (FOR SEEKERS/PROBLEM-LED INITIATIVES):

1. Triage problems that seekers face to ascertain the **depth and breadth** of the problem and the type of expertise needed. If the problem is simple or has an existing solution, AIM-HI connects the seekers with the solvers directly for that particular problem or with a third party with access to those solvers and solutions. If not, then on to step 2.
2. Research, identify, and assess experts and potential solutions or methods. Identify existing groups that have worked toward similar solutions/problems and groups that have ownership.
3. Launch diverse project teams and accelerate experimentations to develop proofs of concept within 90 days.
4. Connect diverse teams and proofs of concept with execution teams identified in step 2, creating a pipeline and syncing the handoffs from idea/design to execution/application.



## ADDITIONALLY, AIM-HI:

- Connects solvers with early adopters in the military or industry and facilitates collaborations and experiments to accelerate redesigns/customizations and applications (solvers/solution-led initiatives).
- Builds and maintains a COIN (Collaborative Open Innovation Network), a web-based community of seekers and solvers and a repository of existing solutions and best practices.
- Expands the knowledge base of Airmen on emerging technology and concepts by launching a speaker's series of deep domain experts.
- Strengthens the innovation leadership in the military by providing training and coaching.
- Drives culture change in the military by fueling squadron/wing/base innovation initiatives through the [Innovatrium in a Box](#), a plug and play innovation center and [Project Mercury's](#) Air University innovation education team.
- Provides an alternative route for leaders to run experiments, find solutions to their pressing problems, and accelerate the decision cycles\*.

\*See the pilot [Latvia initiative with Michigan National Guard](#), under the directive of Lt. Gen. Hinote.