



READY NOW: MANUFACTURING AT MISSION SPEED

October 20-22, 2026

# MxD SUMMIT 2026 AGENDA

## October 20–22, 2026 | MxD, Chicago, Illinois

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### Tuesday, October 20 (4 p.m. – 6 p.m. CT)

Welcome Reception & Open House

### Wednesday, October 21 (8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CT)

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. - Registration | Networking

9:00 - 9:15 a.m. - Welcome & Opening Remarks

Speaker: Berardino Baratta, CEO, MxD

9:15 - 9:45 a.m. - Keynote: "The Urgency Is Real: What the Industrial Base Needs to Deliver - Now"

Speaker: Michael Cadenazzi, Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy, U.S. Department of War

Mr. Cadenazzi will outline what is at stake for government, making the case for why the pace of manufacturing deployment is a national security issue - not eventually, but today. This will be a call to action that makes the room feel the weight of the challenge.

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. - Keynote: "Ready to Build: What's Deployable on the Factory Floor Today"

Speaker: Justin Siebert, COO, Ursa Major

Mr. Siebert will provide a frank read on what capabilities are deployable right now, and where the friction points sit. It's the honest, factory-floor complement to the mission-speed mandate.

10:15 - 10:45 a.m. - Keynote: "Built to Bridge: Closing the Gap Between Mandate and Machine"

Speaker: Saurabh Mehta, CEO, Belcan, a Cognizant Company

Mr. Mehta explores the connection between government mission needs and industrial execution, demonstrating how urgency can translate into capability - and capability into deployable outcomes.

10:45 - 11:15 a.m. - Break | Networking



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## **11:15 - 12:00 p.m. - Panel: "Ready Now: Closing the Gap Between Urgency and Execution"**

Moderator: Berardino Baratta, CEO, MxD

Panelists: Michael Cadenazzi, Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Policy, U.S. Department of War; Saurabh Mehta, CEO, Belcan, a Cognizant Company; Justin Siebert, COO, Ursa Major

## **12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch Break | Networking**

## **1:00 - 1:30 p.m. - Keynote: Topic TBD**

Speaker: James Mismash, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Growth, Director of Small Business Programs

## **1:30 - 3:05 p.m. - Breakout Tracks**

### **Breakout Track A**

1:35 - 2:20 p.m. Presentation: **"Accelerating Secure Manufacturing Readiness with Private 5G"**

Speakers: Anthony Lawson, Field Chief Technology Officer, Ericsson & Matt Hoover, Product Manager, Rockwell Automation

2:25 - 3:05 p.m. Panel: **"Ready People, Ready Factories: Workforce as a Readiness Imperative"**

Moderator: Rebekah Kowalski, Founder/CEO, Employment Futures

Panelists: Mark Mohr, President of DMG MORI Federal Services; Kevin Counts, Managing Director, HARTING US; Jake Gomez, President, Battle Tested

### **Breakout Track B**

1:35 - 2:15 p.m. Panel: **"Follow the Money: Public Funding, Private Capital, and the Path to Scale"**

Moderator: Micah Murphy, Senior Vice President, New American Industrial Alliance

Panelists: Drew Wayne, Managing Director of the Digital Policy Team at Siemens USA; Brad Zaun, Regional Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration

2:20 - 2:40 p.m. Presentation: **"Manufacturing at Mission Speed: Closing the Gap Between Engineering Change and Production Reality"**

Speaker: Filip Aronshtein, Co-Founder & CEO, Dirac

2:45 - 3:05 p.m. Presentation: **"From Engineering Data to Production: Three Digital Manufacturing Strategies to Strengthen the Defense Industrial Base"**

Speaker: Jennifer Herron, CEO, Action Engineering

## **3:05 - 3:15 p.m. - Break**

## **3:15 - 4:15 p.m. - MxD Member Showcase: Emerging Technologies**

This session spotlights four MxD member companies through rapid, 15-minute presentations (10 min presentation + quick Q&A), each addressing the question: What does mission speed look like in your factory?



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**4:15 - 4:30 p.m. - Closing Remarks | Preview of Day 2**

Speaker: Berardino Baratta, CEO, MxD

**4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Networking Reception | Factory Floor Tour**

**Thursday, October 22 (8 a.m. – 4 p.m. CT)**

**8:00 - 8:45 a.m. - Registration | Networking**

**8:45 - 9:15 - MxD CEO Town Hall**

Speaker: Berardino Baratta, CEO, MxD

MxD leadership highlights the organization's work and the road ahead that ties the two days together under one mandate: get ready and get moving.

**9:15 - 9:45 a.m. - Keynote: "AI and the Industrial Base: The Capability We Can't Afford to Leave on the Table"**

Speaker: Patrick Kelleher, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Materiel Readiness

Mr. Kelleher frames AI adoption as a strategic readiness gap, laying out what the mission demands and where the current pace of adoption is falling short.

**9:45 - 10:15 a.m. - Keynote: "AI on the Line: What's Real, What's Ready, What's Still Hype"**

Speaker: Alison Magyari, VP Information Technology, Global Business Relationship Management, Eaton

Ms. Magyar delivers a candid, floor-level assessment of what AI is actually delivering on their production lines today versus what remains aspirational.

**10:15 - 10:45 a.m. - Keynote: "The Stack Behind the Speed: What It Takes to Deploy AI Where Cloud Can't Go"**

Speaker to be announced

A solutions and technology partner breaks down the infrastructure and tooling required to run AI in regulated, cloud-blocked environments - turning constraints into enablement and making advanced capabilities mission-ready.

**10:45 - 11:15 a.m. - Break | Networking**

**11:15 - 12:00 p.m. Panel: "Deploying AI at Mission Speed: Hype, Reality, and What Comes Next"**

Moderator: Lauren Dunford, CEO, Guidewheel

Panelists: Patrick Kelleher, Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Materiel Readiness; Alison Magyari, VP Information Technology, Global Business Relationship Management, Eaton



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**12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** - Lunch Break | Networking

**1:00 - 2:30 p.m.** - Breakout Tracks

**Breakout Track A**

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. Panel: **“Quantum Horizons: Preparing Defense Manufacturers for What's Next”**

Moderator: Alejandra Y. Castillo, Chancellor Senior Fellow, Purdue University Northwest

Speakers: Julia Lane, Federal Strategy Advisor, Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park; Meera Raja, VP Deep Tech, P33

1:50 - 2:30 p.m. Presentation: **“Rebuilding the Arsenal of Freedom”**

Speaker: Lee Cardona-Gonzalez, Principal Solutions Architect, AWS

**Breakout Track B**

1:00 - 1:20 p.m. Presentation: **“Closing the AI Productivity Gap in Manufacturing: From Factory Insight to Enterprise Action”**

Speaker: Christophe Kolb, CEO & Founder, Taller Technologies

1:25 - 1:45 p.m. Presentation: **“From Analysis to Acceptance: Deploying an AI-Enabled Digital Thread for Defense Sustainment Parts”**

Speaker: Kirk Spangenberg, President, Aerospace & Defense Division, Arcessio

1:50 - 2:10 p.m. Presentation: **“Ready but Unfindable: What Happens to Suppliers Who Aren't in the Answer”**

Speaker: Jennifer Wang, Co-Founder, Nevisible

2:15 - 2:35 p.m. Presentation: **“Beyond the Build: Why MRO Intelligence Belongs on the Mission-Speed Agenda”**

Speaker: Sasha Trifunac, Chief Commercial Officer, Oxalis

**2:30 - 3:00 p.m.** - Break | Networking

**3:00 - 3:30 - Presentation: "AI's Impact on Compliance & Cybersecurity"**

Speaker: Mike Tanji, Director, Cybersecurity, MxD

Annual cybersecurity training can signal that security is a low priority, especially compared with operational measures like production, cash flow, and quality that receive regular attention. To build a stronger security culture, organizations should reinforce cybersecurity frequently, visibly, and consistently.

**3:30 - 4:00** - Closing Remarks

Speaker: Berardino Baratta, CEO, MxD