



AMP SoCal's Fac-a-thon Links Faculty's Top Minds to Manufacturing's Top Research Needs

The AMP SoCal led Fac-a-thon unites faculty researchers from colleges and universities across the region, pooling their collective brain-power to solve some of the aerospace and defense (A&D) manufacturing industry's most pressing research issues, while also simultaneously advancing manufacturing development and technology across the nation.

Southern California boasts over 80 educational institutions, with top-ranking programs covering numerous engineering, technical and manufacturing disciplines, nearly half of these institutions are partners within the AMP SoCal network. Leveraging the strong existing foundation of knowledge and research, AMP SoCal seeks to enlist its academic partners for the Fac-a-thon and its unique opportunity to impact the A&D industrial ecosystem together.



Pictured to the left are the six research categories the Fac-a-thon is enlisting faculty to participate in as shown on the [Fac-a-thon website](#). Building off of the “hackathon” model, where programmers and developers across technology fields hold a focused collaborative session for the successful creation of a product, AMP SoCal has developed a similarly structured Fac-a-thon. The initiative is employing the expertise of faculty researchers for the following six industry research categories:

- Future Aerospace Platform Component Systems
- Composite Materials and Advanced Materials
- Battery Technology
- Sensors
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Coating and High Temperature Alloys

The first objective is to prepare and submit a proposal to the National Science Foundation's Industry/University Cooperative Research Center. This ties into the Fac-a-thon's ultimate goal of sharpening the competitive edge of A&D manufacturers and their supply chain, which includes more efficient technologies and processes for product development.

Dr. Marie Talnack is Director of Cal Poly Pomona's Technology Transfer Office and Industry Clinic, and the AMP SoCal Infrastructure and Site Development Committee Chair, as well as AMP SoCal Research & Innovation Committee Vice-Chair. A major interest of hers is the transfer of technologies in

order to commercialize technology and create new business opportunities. Dr. Talnack developed the Fac-a-thon initiative and key technical questions to launch the conversations.

“Imagine a way to take all the smartest people and get them communicating and working on a single problem. Imagine the ideas that could be generated,” said Dr. Talnack to a room full of Southern California manufacturers and the area’s university-affiliated Technology Transfer professionals at the recent AMP SoCal Innovation Forum. “That’s what we’re hoping to accomplish with the Fac-a-thon.”



Dr. Marie Talnack speaks at the AMP SoCal Technology Transfer Innovation Forum.
(Photo: Hinde Kast)

To learn more and participate in the Fac-a-thon, go to: <http://ampsocalusc.wix.com/fac-a-thon>. Let us know if you are interested in participating in this initiative by **filling out the feedback form**. Please let us know your input on the research questions provided within each section, or which categories interest you the most, or even if you have any additional feedback or questions.

Proposed timeline:

- July – September – outreach to faculty and industry about the Fac-a-thon
- October – Innovation Forum featuring current research on small satellites and online Fac-a-thon

About AMP SoCal

The Advanced Manufacturing Partnership for Southern California (AMP SoCal) collaborates with organizations in both public and private sectors, across government, academia and industry, to strengthen the region’s aerospace and defense manufacturing economy. Led by the Price School – USC Center for Economic Development, in partnership with the city of Los Angeles and more than 100 supporting organizations, AMP SoCal focuses on the southernmost 10 counties in California. The region forms one of the initial 12 federal “Manufacturing Community” designations from the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) initiative. AMP SoCal’s shared goal is to provide aerospace and defense manufacturers and their supply chain with the provision of tools, talent, and capacity to master the future. For more information, please visit AMPSoCal.org.