

Pittsburgh Autonomy Report Words of Support



Don Smith, President of Regional Industrial Development Corporation

Report Sponsor, Steering Committee Member

“We have a tremendous opportunity to become the premiere global center of autonomous technologies,” says RIDC President Donald F. Smith, Jr. “But to achieve that, our focus can’t just be on R&D. We need to close the commercialization cycle by manufacturing and distributing end-user products and services here, too, just like we historically did for steel. And we need to make regulatory changes that remove barriers and make our region more attractive. We have all the puzzle pieces. We need to put them together strategically and collaboratively – with a coordinated regional plan – or we’ll fall behind the competition.”

Matt Smith, President of Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce

Report Sponsor, Steering Committee Member

“In the Pittsburgh region, we don’t wait on opportunity, we seize it. That drive has allowed our region to define – and redefine – itself over time and reinforce its value proposition in a changing world. Our region has such an opportunity now with autonomy, a global growth market and a sector where we’re well-positioned to compete,” said Matt Smith, president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, an Allegheny Conference on Community Development affiliate.

“To claim global leadership, long term, a focused state-level autonomy policy is essential. That will enable us to compete – and win – in this space. The entire 10-county region has so much to gain if we move now to create the right environment to leverage an opportunity that’s cross-cutting – from self-driving vehicles and robotics to farming and advanced manufacturing. Pittsburgh can become the global hub for autonomous technologies with opportunities up and down the sector’s supply chain and future-focused jobs for workers of all levels from technicians and skilled trades to PhDs.”



RIDC

Regional Industrial Development Corporation

Sam Reiman, Director of the RK Mellon Foundation

Steering Committee Member, Project Funder

"Pittsburgh long has relied on a proven formula to generate prosperity: We see opportunities for national and global economic leadership, and we seize them," said Sam Reiman, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. "At the Foundation, we years ago identified the autonomous vehicles industry as one of the next great opportunities for Pittsburgh leadership – and we've been betting on its potential with philanthropic investments ever since. This study makes that potential clear for everyone to see – and also makes clear what we need to do, together, to seize it."

Joel Reed, Executive Director of Pittsburgh Robotics Network

Steering Committee Member

"This economic impact report is another testament to the continued importance of the robotics industry in Pennsylvania. With the work being done across the state, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lead the world into the future of transportation. We look forward to working with policymakers and regulators to ensure that cutting-edge jobs stay in our communities and that the industry continues to grow right here in the Commonwealth."

Patrick Mondt, CEO of Thoro.ai

Steering Committee Member

"The work of the committee and Teconomy includes recommendations that are ripe and actionable. Fostering an environment that will continue to be conducive for the development of this technology is something that each of us, and our partners in government and local communities, can all play a role in." Patrick Mondt, CEO of Thoro.ai, a recently launched autonomous robotics platform spun out of Carnegie Robotics.

"At Thoro, we work to develop the human-machine team, and benefits from using autonomous robotics include increasing productivity and improving job satisfaction. RIDC's leadership and Teconomy's efforts have produced a report that takes an honest look at the state of autonomous technology in the region, and provides actions to foster Pittsburgh's continued global leadership in the development of this technology."

Gerardo Interiano, Vice President of Government Relations at Aurora

Steering Committee Member

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Martial Hebert, Dean and Professor of Robotics at Carnegie Mellon University

"The leadership of Carnegie Mellon's faculty and students to define the field of robotics combined with Pittsburgh's work ethic and industrial heritage have made this region a world leader in autonomous systems. This report documents these strengths and highlights the actions that can ensure we realize the full job creation potential these technologies hold for our region in the future."

Mark DeSantis, CEO of Bloomfield Robotics

"This report is a case study in long-term planning, thinking and doing economic development and speaks to decades of hard work by the region's universities, businesses, and local government."

Jim Rock, CEO of Seegrid

"Seegrid is proud to be among the diverse base of companies operating in the autonomous mobile systems market within the Pittsburgh Ecosystem," said Jim Rock, Seegrid chief executive officer. "Being among the over 70 companies in Pittsburgh's Autonomous Systems Industry Cluster, we welcome the opportunity to remain a leader in this industry, attracting top talent and continuing to call Pittsburgh home for Seegrid for years to come."

[Read the report here.](#)



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