



CHIPS4CHIPS

# A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION OPPORTUNITY



**CHIPS4CHIPS**  
*Chattahoochee Hub for Innovation  
and Production of Semiconductors*

# THE COLUMBUS REGION BELIEVES IN BIG, BOLD IDEAS THAT PROPEL OUR FUTURE.



Our leaders have a vision for Columbus to become the southeast leader in the growth of U.S. semiconductor manufacturing.

The work to achieve this vision is underway now, driven by the **Chattahoochee Hub for Innovation and the Production of Semiconductors (CHIPS4CHIPS)**.

## THE SEMICONDUCTOR INDUSTRY: A CATALYST FOR ACTION

Semiconductors power nearly every aspect of modern life—from cell phones to washing machines, from automobiles to military systems. Recent global forces revealed the consequences of a large-scale semiconductor supply chain disruption—slowing or even halting production of goods across several industries.

The semiconductor industry is projected to generate \$1 trillion in annual revenue by 2030. But the U.S. accounts for only 10 percent of global chip manufacturing and zero of the world’s most advanced chips, all of which are made in Taiwan and South Korea, places with significant geopolitical tensions.

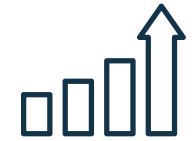
The bipartisan CHIPS & Science Act of 2022 (CHIPS Act) is our nation’s vehicle to change this imbalance and incentivize companies to expand U.S. manufacturing capacity—a shift vital to both economic and national security.

“This is a national security issue because our most advanced microchips—including those that go into U.S. fighter jets—are being manufactured in other countries. We have to bring this back onshore. National security requires it.”

— ANDY HILMES, BRIGADIER GENERAL, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

The CHIPS Act has already stimulated expansion activity and the domestic semiconductor industry must add 120,000 manufacturing jobs over the next decade to support projected growth. U.S. metro areas with an existing semiconductor industry presence cannot accommodate all new activity.

This opens the door for locations like Columbus, Georgia to attract family-sustaining jobs, future-proof careers, and unprecedented capital investment to the Chattahoochee Valley.



The semiconductor industry directly employs more than 277,000 workers in high-paying jobs across 49 states and supports 1.6 million additional American jobs.

Source: Semiconductor Industry Association

# WHY THE COLUMBUS REGION?

Columbus has several advantages that, in combination, no other U.S. location can offer:

## The nation's #1 state business climate

Georgia offers advantages that lead numerous experts to rank the state as the nation's #1 business climate. Georgia is also among the most competitive U.S. states for manufacturing when considering operating costs, market access, and availability of talent.

## A significant veteran population

Columbus is home to Fort Moore, and Georgia ranks in the top five most popular states for transitioning veterans, attracting approximately 3,400 annually. This results in strong alignment between the semiconductor industry's in-demand technical skills and those prevalent in the Chattahoochee Valley workforce.

## Georgia Tech, one of the world's foremost electrical engineering institutions

A leader in semiconductor-related education and sponsored research, Georgia Tech provides world-class capability for the entire state of Georgia, and is working in partnership with CHIPS4CHIPS.

## A global gateway that offers flexibility and accessibility

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, just 90 minutes from Columbus, has non-stop passenger flights to 230 destinations in 45 countries.

## A vibrant place to live

Area residents enjoy the opportunities and amenities of a large city, including cultural attractions, world-class outdoor experiences, renowned dining, and affordable housing—with an overall cost of living 25% lower than the U.S. average.

## Semiconductor industry growth

Companies like Micron and Absolics have announced substantial investments in Georgia, validating the state's broad technical capabilities.

## Community support and a business-focused team

Columbus is mobilized and working quickly to serve semiconductor companies, with a growing coalition focused on supporting industry needs.

**"We've made Columbus our headquarters because it gives us a competitive advantage to attract talent to this community. There's a quality of life here that you don't have in larger cities. Supporting and helping businesses grow is in the DNA of this community."**

— KEVIN BLAIR, CEO, SYNOVUS

## Notable Chattahoochee Valley Employers



## Georgia Semiconductor Companies



Micron located an advanced memory chip design center in Midtown Atlanta in early 2022. It is now operational and will ultimately employ 500.

A subsidiary of SKC Co. Ltd., Absolics is developing a \$600 million glass substrate manufacturing facility in Covington, creating 400 new jobs.

Synopsys is at the forefront of advanced technologies for chip design, verification, IP integration, and software security and quality testing.

Headquartered in Georgia, Silicon Creations is a leading silicon IP developer with a worldwide presence.

In January 2024, Micromize announced Columbus as the home of its new headquarters and manufacturing facility. The company specializes in energy-efficient electronics for wearables and mobile devices.



## FORT MOORE AND THE MANEUVER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Columbus is home to Fort Moore (formerly Fort Benning) and The Maneuver Center of Excellence, which is a significant competitive advantage in Columbus' efforts to attract new industry. Fort Moore is the nation's fifth largest military base and plays a pivotal role in the CHIPS4CHIPS effort.

Fort Moore employs more than 45,000 in Columbus with a breadth and depth of education, military technical training, and leadership experience.

Fort Moore's Career Skills Programs (CSP) are designed to help transitioning personnel with the next step in their career. A CSP curriculum can be developed for working in a chip fab. This upskilling can be done in partnership with private industry and an institution of higher education and potentially supported by Georgia's renowned Quick Start training program.

Plus, Georgia is one of the top states for transitioning veterans. This makes the Chattahoochee Valley a compelling location for semiconductor companies, as many of them aim to hire military veterans.

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**Over the past five years, Fort Moore has transitioned an annual average of 2,300 soldiers back to civilian life.**

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**Georgia consistently ranks within the top five soldier veteran destination states.**



## PREPARING OUR REGION



The Chattahoochee Valley can meet the requirements of a semiconductor location:



### Available Land

Land, which is readily available in the region, is critical not only for company locations but for economic expansion that will occur as a result—including new business creation, housing, green space development, and transportation and logistics infrastructure.



### Extensive Source of Water

Access to enough water is essential for semiconductor manufacturing, and Columbus has substantial excess capacity.



### Minimized Occurrence of Natural Disasters

Semiconductor manufacturing and technology operations are highly sensitive and affected by seismic activity and other disruptive environmental impacts, all of which are minimal in the Chattahoochee Valley.



### A Trained Workforce

Workforce needs in the industry are significant, and Columbus region institutions have created solutions to ensure a qualified pipeline of workers.





## The Life-Changing Power of a Job

The semiconductor industry's need for talent intersects with Columbus' ambition to reduce poverty, build the economy, and transform our region.

Employment helps create economic stability for individuals. It will make the Chattahoochee Valley economy more resilient, ensure the success of large and small businesses, foster vibrant communities, diversify the local tax base, and support families.

## CHIPS4CHIPS: COLLABORATING TO TRANSFORM OUR REGION

CHIPS4CHIPS is a growing nonprofit coalition of more than 200 Georgia and Alabama public, private, civic, and academic leaders who have come together to maximize the opportunity to grow the regional economy. CHIPS4CHIPS is mobilized and advancing strategies that will meet semiconductor location demands:

### Site Exploration and Evaluation

Local chambers, site location experts, and economic development partners are working to create an inventory of sites suitable for the industry.

### Education and Workforce Development

Georgia and Alabama research universities, regional universities, historically Black colleges and universities, community and technical colleges, and K-12 school systems have come together to ensure the long-term availability of a skilled workforce.

### Federal, State, and Local Support

Outreach is ongoing to federal, state, and local officials to keep them apprised of planning and industry needs that can be supported by grants, incentives, and policy.

### Marketing and Business Development

Local marketing leaders, national place branding experts, and site location experts are working together to promote the Columbus region's advantages to decision-makers in the semiconductor industry.



## Regional Win

CHIPS4CHIPS is among 22 finalists out of 565 applicants nationwide eligible to compete for federal grants ranging from \$20 million to \$50 million in the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Reconnect Program. The EDA also announced CHIPS4CHIPS as a \$500,000 Strategy Development Grant winner.

**“THIS IS A HISTORIC ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY, with a lot of hard work still ahead. This economic development designation and grant award position the Chattahoochee Valley to bid for one of the most significant programs we passed in last year’s economic development and infrastructure bills. Among hundreds of applicants, we have now advanced to the highly competitive final round. Full steam ahead for Columbus and the region.”**

— U.S. SENATOR **JON OSSOFF**



# CHIPS4CHIPS RESULTS

## Financial Support

**SECURED:**  
**\$1.25 million** from Columbus Consolidated Government.

**\$500,000** from the Bradley Turner Foundation.

**More than \$500,000** from local governments, corporations and other private sources.

A **\$500,000** federal Recompete Program grant. CHIPS4CHIPS is also one of 22 national finalists for phase two of the program, during which 5-10 awards of **\$20-50 million** each will be made.

**IN PROGRESS:**  
A **\$1.555 million** congressionally directed spending request for megasite planning is pending approval by Congress.

“CHIPS4CHIPS is working to ensure we have a future-ready workforce in the Chattahoochee Valley. We have brought together not only institutions of higher education, but also K-12 school systems. It’s an unprecedented level of collaboration that will ensure our residents are prepared for new career opportunities, and our region will have the talent needed to welcome new companies.”

— **DR. DIONNE ROSSER-MIMS**, CAMPUS VICE CHANCELLOR,  
TROY UNIVERSITY, PHENIX CITY

## Industry Activity

CHIPS4CHIPS is actively engaging semiconductor companies, hosting site visits, and working to develop a pipeline of opportunities.

## Community Engagement

More than 125 briefings have taken place to inform community leaders and stakeholders about the opportunity presented by the semiconductor industry and the CHIPS & Science Act.

Stakeholders and CHIPS4CHIPS leaders have visited semiconductor companies in other markets to connect with industry leaders and learn about their operations.

## Regional Win

Micromize, a venture-backed, NSF-funded, MIT spinoff that develops electronics for mobile and wearable devices, has selected Columbus as the new location of its headquarters and manufacturing facility.

The move is a result of a strategic partnership between Micromize, Georgia Tech, Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC), and CHIPS4CHIPS.

“Our decision to locate in Columbus was driven by several crucial factors and we are thrilled about the opportunities that this vibrant city presents for our growth and development. The work of CHIPS4CHIPS in supporting the semiconductor industry is commendable, and we are excited to be part of this innovative ecosystem.”

— **DR. PRASHANT PATIL**, FOUNDER  
AND CEO, MICROMIZE

## New Workforce Development Programs

CHIPS4Chips has brought together more than 20 Georgia and Alabama top-tier research universities, regional universities, HBCUs, community colleges, technical colleges, and K-12 schools to ensure a workforce prepared for jobs in the semiconductor industry, advanced packaging, and manufacturing operations.

- Middle school students from Muscogee County attended a newly-created 3-day **CHIPS Camp** cohosted by Georgia Tech, Columbus State, and Columbus Tech. A second round of camps, expanded to include high school students, will be held this summer.
- A partnership with **Randstad’s Talent Development Program** is focused on finding and developing high-quality tech talent to build the Columbus region’s STEM workforce.
- The **Chattahoochee Valley Fab Lab**, in development now, will provide a simulative environment that fast-tracks industry-focused training for adults and students, ensuring residents are prepared for careers in chip manufacturing.

## Partnership with Georgia Tech

CHIPS4CHIPS has developed a transformational relationship with Georgia Tech, leveraging its position as a leading research university, and its cutting edge innovations in the semiconductor industry.

In addition to regular meetings and collaborative work to identify companies that would benefit from a location in the Chattahoochee Valley, Georgia Tech is conducting a three-phase housing study of the region, and Columbus will be the urban pilot for the development of an economic impact tool.

## New Technology

Columbus State created a GIS mapping tool to scout for sites conducive to semiconductor manufacturing. The tool has since been expanded to include mapping of other regional assets.

The Southern Regional Education Board developed an interactive asset map that highlights the Georgia and Alabama workforce profile.







**Columbus**  
GA

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The Chattahoochee Hub for Innovation and Production of Semiconductors (CHIPS4CHIPS) is the Columbus region's bi-state coalition dedicated to serving the semiconductor industry.

Contact Ben Moser, CHIPS4CHIPS Chair, at [ben.moser@chips4chips.org](mailto:ben.moser@chips4chips.org) or 706-887-7440 to learn more.

[chips4chips.org](https://chips4chips.org)