

Smart sensor group's latest deal to create 120 new high-wage jobs

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Leaders for the International Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing Research are busy securing deals to build up the Florida Advanced Manufacturing Research Center in Kissimmee — and the latest one will lead to plenty of new high-wage jobs.

Osceola County on May 23 approved \$15 million in research funding to help the Kissimmee-based group develop a design center. Because of that deal, an unidentified international research institute referred to as Project Nano will open its first U.S. location in the area.



Fran Korosec, ICAMR's director of business operations

ICAMR will manage the 100,000-square-foot Florida Advanced Manufacturing Research Center that's now under construction once it's finished in 2017. The consortium played a major role in getting the institution to choose Central Florida for its U.S. expansion and some of the job opportunities to follow.

Here, Fran Korosec, ICAMR's director of business operations, talks about Project Nano, job creation, how the deal formed and more:

When will the company behind Project Nano be revealed? In July. Project Nano is an internationally renowned research institute with a staff exceeding 2,200 people, including industrial residents and guest researchers who perform research in different fields of nanoelectronics and have a proven track record of running research and development programs with a global ecosystem of more than 600 industry partners.

What job opportunities will this company create with its new location? It will create 120 jobs over five years. Those jobs will be high-wage, as it will call for scientists, engineers and software developers.

How long have ICAMR, UCF and the county been in talks with Project Nano? For over 18 months. The [May 23] vote by the Osceola County Commission was the final step in that.

How will this company be connected to the consortium and the research center? It will partner with Osceola County and ICAMR to create a design center, which provides a needed framework for establishment of a center for research and design in multiple fields of nanoelectronics.

Has the design center always been a part of ICAMR's plans? Yes. Project Nano and the design center will provide immediate recognition for Osceola County and Florida as a high-tech center in the world and act as a magnet for attracting new investment opportunities to the region. It also gives it instant credibility with an alliance of more than 600 industry partners, international visibility and solid links to supply chains with local presence in the U.S., the EU and Asia. The design firm is seen as a funnel that will feed activity into the fab or foundry as we sometimes refer to the microelectronic manufacturing process – it opens that capability up to a much broader set of companies and universities.