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The University of Dayton-led Institute for Development and Commercialization of Advanced Sensor Technology (IDCAST) will receive $250,000 from the state of Ohio to improve technology and innovation in the Miami Valley.

The money is earmarked to advance Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership services at IDCAST, which help network large manufacturers in the sensors industry and provide more tools for the industry within the Miami Valley.

"This grant allows us to initiate a program to assist Ohio businesses with significant growth potential to overcome hurdles standing in the way of that growth," said John Leland, University of Dayton Research Institute director.

The Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership supports the manufacturing industry by providing the products, services and assistance that are dedicated to the productivity, growth and global competitiveness of Ohio manufacturers. Since 2004, the partnership has been working with specialized nonprofits, like IDCAST, to provide low-cost business and technical assistance to small- and medium-sized manufacturers.

"It's clear that our region is quickly becoming a leader in the technology industry," said State Senator Bill Beagle (R–Tipp City), who sits on the Industrial Technology Enterprise Advisory Council, which previously approved both grants. "That is why it is so important that we continue to encourage entrepreneurs and invest in the jobs of the future."

IDCAST has gathered more than $98 million in research and contributed to the creation of more than 251 jobs.

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