ScaleBridge Labs Launches EDA Program for Dual-Use Defense Startups with Cadence

New EDA partnership enables dual-use semiconductor startups to rapidly scale into defense markets.

Dayton, OH, Nov. 18, 2026 - ScaleBridge Labs (SBL), the venture lab powered by MMEC, today announced a partnership with Cadence, a pioneer in the application of computational software, to launch an electronic design automation (EDA) program for early-stage dual-use semiconductor startups.

Access to EDA software is a barrier for many early-stage companies developing chip prototypes. This initiative combines ScaleBridge Labs' startup application and evaluation process with Cadence's EDA tools and expertise to addresses a growing national priority: ensuring that promising U.S. microelectronics companies can leverage emerging semiconductor technologies and rapidly scale into defense and national security markets.

While MMEC, ScaleBridge Labs, and affiliates have addressed many of the barriers startups face in achieving early success, one that remains is access to the Electronic Design Automation (EDA) software critical to successful early prototypes. This program combines ScaleBridge Labs' application and evaluation process rigor with Cadence's EDA tools and expertise to help participating companies select software suited to their designs. The goal is to reduce design risk and help startups move faster from developing intellectual property to prototyping and, ultimately, production.

The result is an accelerator that helps build a thriving defense startup ecosystem, deliver better solutions for the warfighter and develop healthy members and customers for everyone involved.

"Many of the integrated circuits developed by startups leverage emerging semiconductor technologies and will define the next generation of national security capabilities," said Paul Colestock, Director of Commercial Innovation, ScaleBridge Labs. "Our goal is to make it dramatically easier for the best defense startups to have the tools that they need to scale along with these emerging technologies."

"ScaleBridge Labs is creating an important pathway for promising dual-use semiconductor-based product startups to access the technology and expertise they need to move from innovative ideas to successful silicon," said Charlie Schadewitz, Vice President of Aerospace and Defense Sales, Cadence. "By combining ScaleBridge Labs' rigorous startup evaluation process and deep understanding of the defense ecosystem with Cadence's industry-leading EDA solutions, this program will help emerging companies reduce design risk, accelerate development and bring differentiated microelectronics innovations to market more quickly."

Nu-Treck, a past participant in the SBL Accelerator, highlighted the value of affordable design tools for small companies.

"The ScaleBridge Labs Accelerator program helped Nu-Trek develop a more strategic business perspective and potential new opportunities. Beyond the accelerator program, the

ScaleBridge/Cadence EDA Startup Program provided cost efficient design tools, making an enormous difference for a small technology company." Miriam Rouch, Nu-Trek CEO

As defense technology continues to evolve, the collaboration between SBL and Cadence represents a scalable model for accelerating domestic microelectronics innovation into production, deployment, and long-term industrial capability. This partnership aims to strengthen the domestic semiconductor ecosystem and bring new microelectronics capabilities to warfighters and commercial customers sooner.

Learn More

Semiconductor startups with dual-use technologies, defense primes, federal agencies, and institutional investors interested in participating in the initiative can learn more at:

www.scalebridgelabs.com

www.cadence.com

www.mmeconsortium.org

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