



## **AFFOA SkillBridge Intern Job Description**

AFFOA SkillBridge Research and Development Intern (4-6 Months)

Position Location: Cambridge, MA

Innovative, high-tech, multi-disciplinary... these are just a few of the characteristics that set the Advanced Functional Fabrics of America (AFFOA) team apart. As a non-profit, public private partnership Manufacturing Innovation Institute, AFFOA's mission is to rekindle the textiles industry by leading a nationwide enterprise for advanced fiber & fabric technology and manufacturing innovation, enabling revolutionary new system capabilities for commercial and defense applications.

AFFOA is dedicated to accelerating the pace of innovation in advanced textiles through R&D, transitioning and integrating fiber and fabric technologies into products with dual-use applications. The Institute is uniquely positioned to establish and build supply chains to rapidly prototype for DoD and commercial needs and focuses on preparing and building the workforce of the future that can support these new manufacturing needs. AFFOA partners with its member companies including startups, universities, manufacturers, commercial industry, and defense partners to bring advanced fiber technologies to market.

### **Position Overview**

AFFOA is looking for military personnel with operational experience and insight into how smart fibers and wearable technologies can help operators in their fields of expertise accomplish their missions more effectively and safer. Participants can gain experience in a wide range of skills ranging from technical/engineering, to non-profit management. Particular roles AFFOA is looking to fulfill include:

*Business Development Strategy* – including the customer discovery with operational teams to understand capabilities needs of advanced functional fabric technologies and assisting in associated proposal development. Further opportunity exists for aligning of customer discovery insights to future DoD and dual-use product technology roadmapping.

*Project Management* – including leading industry-partnered DoD-funded or industry-proprietary projects for advanced functional fabrics

*System Engineering* – Design of advanced functional fabrics systems and subsystems, including electronic textile processing and/or advancement of hardware and software for prototype demonstrators to be evaluated by DoD and/or industry.

AFFOA has a particular interest in participants with interest in:

CLIMATE ADAPTIVE TEXTILES  
ADVANCED MATERIALS  
PERFORMANCE COMMUNICATIONS  
SIGNATURE MANAGMENT  
HUMAN HEALTH & PERFORMANCE  
ENVIRONMENTAL & CIVIL MONITORING  
SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES AND PROCESSES  
DIGITAL ENGINEERING  
EDUCATION & WORKFORE DEVELOPMENT

What makes the AFFOA SkillBridge program unique is a focus on modernizing an established textiles industry by integrating the smart tech of today, and creating an employment pathway that covers a variety of interests and skills.

#### **GAIN EXPERIENCE**

SkillBridge program participants will have the opportunity to use their military operational experience to initiate, develop and oversee a variety of prototype proposals.

#### **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

Participants will build relationships within the business development ecosystem utilized by non-profits and manufacturers that support the military.

#### **WORK ACROSS INDUSTRIES**

The AFFOA Ecosystem includes connecting the needs of the Department of Defense to our partners in the textile and electronics areas (consumer, wearables, industrial sensing, materials science, and many more areas).