

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON COOPERATION

between

THE STATE OF INDIANA IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

This Memorandum of Understanding is made by and between the State of Indiana in the United States of America and the Government of the Slovak Republic (collectively the “Participants”).

WHEREAS, the Participants, in recognition of the substantial state-country partnership in the defense sector, which includes the long-standing partnership between the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic and the Indiana National Guard, have established an enduring and productive relationship based on mutual interests and understanding;

WHEREAS, the Participants share the objective of deepening their already well-established relationship to increase economic development cooperation and trade relations in order to strengthen their businesses and increase investment in both, the State of Indiana and the Slovak Republic; and

WHEREAS, the Participants recognize:

- the overall importance of the economic relationships between the United States of America and Europe and between the Participants;
- the advantages derived from strengthening and broadening sectors of mutually beneficial trade and investment;
- the significance of working together to create a skilled and modern workforce to meet the needs of an innovative and digital economy;
- the value of close cooperation and consultations between the Participants on economic issues to ensure open lines of communication and sharing of best practices;
- the importance of working together where possible, and in the case of the State of Indiana, in concert with the federal government of the United States in its sole discretion, on matters of economic significance.

NOW THEREFORE, the Participants, in the spirit of promoting closer relationships, intend to further support and work cooperatively within the boundaries of existing laws and treaties in their respective jurisdictions on issues as set forth below.

Item 1: Areas of Cooperation

In line with the principle of mutual benefit, the Participants share the intent to cooperate in the following areas:

- **Economic Development and Investment**

This area of cooperation promotes business interactions between the Participants, including mutual exchange of appropriate business delegations and market information as well as other cooperative activities in recognition of the importance of two-way investment.

- **Workforce Development**

This area of cooperation supports the sharing of best practices to meet the challenges of creating and training a workforce to meet high-demand, high-wage jobs created by innovation across all sectors. The Participants will work together to identify opportunities for strategic partnerships and alliances between private sector companies, which will strengthen their capabilities to compete in international markets with a trained and ready workforce.

- **Commercial Defense Development**

This area of cooperation seeks to build on the current partnership between the Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic and the Indiana National Guard and relevant training and exchanges to seek commercial opportunities for military and defense-related investment and commercial expansion.

- **Advanced Manufacturing and Materials**

This area of cooperation promotes collaborative projects, research, information exchange and the sharing of best practices and world-class expertise regarding innovation in advanced manufacturing.

- **Automotive, including Electric Transportation**

This area of cooperation fosters information sharing in the development and support of the automotive industry, including automotive innovation, engineering and manufacturing, and battery research and workforce development, especially as they relate to the commercialization, production, and deployment of electric transportation.

- **Energy and Energy Infrastructure**

This area of cooperation aims to share best practices regarding utilities management and the modernization of energy infrastructure and technologies to support economic development activities, resilient energy systems and business growth.

- **Innovation and Information Technologies**

This area of cooperation encompasses the areas of information technology and cyber security. Activities contemplated include technology collaboration; cooperative partnership participation and collaboration; and private sector and academic institution collaboration.

- **Agriculture and Agriculture Technology**

This area of cooperation facilitates appropriate collaboration and information sharing in the fields of agriculture and agricultural technology by supporting, as appropriate, a productive long-term relationship utilizing relevant public and private entities to exchange best practices and designate areas of growth within these fields.

- **Academic Cooperation**

This area of cooperation focuses on the creation of new exchange programs or the enhancement of existing programs to support and encourage appropriate institutional collaboration between colleges and universities, as well as research institutions in the State of Indiana and the Slovak Republic.

- **Public Administration and Long-Term Strategic Planning**

This area of cooperation aims to share best practices on setting priorities for transparent and efficient public administration, including preparation of long-term strategic initiatives, projects and fund structures.

Item 2: Forms of Cooperation

Under the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding, forms of cooperation may include the following:

- Organizing regular economic development missions and public sector visits;
- Specific projects, including technology and infrastructure demonstration projects;
- Sharing appropriate information and best practices regarding policies and programs, as well as policy design and capacity building support;
- Promoting cooperative research, development, and deployment projects in fields such as the life sciences and other technology between research institutions and universities;
- Joint organization of symposia, seminars, workshops, exhibitions, and training;
- Participating in other commitments and/or initiatives, including multilateral consortiums;
- Facilitating discussions regarding cooperation and sharing of regulatory best practices;

- Promoting participation and support from municipalities, regions, research institutions, universities, non-governmental organizations, and other organizations; and
- Any other mutually acceptable forms of cooperation that contribute to the goals of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Item 3: Implementation & Working Group

The Participants will, on a regular basis, inform and consult with one another on matters of common interest that represent opportunities for mutual benefit and are consistent with this Memorandum of Understanding, with the intention of forming a working group (“Working Group”) made up of stakeholders chosen by each Participant from the public and private sectors.

To oversee and implement this Memorandum of Understanding, the State of Indiana designates the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) as the coordinating authority for all state agency interactions related to this Memorandum of Understanding; and the Government of the Slovak Republic designates the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Deputy Prime Minister’s Office for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic as the coordinating authority for all state agency interactions related to this Memorandum of Understanding.

The Working Group will coordinate the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding, as appropriate, with other commitments between entities in the State of Indiana and the Government of the Slovak Republic. The Working Group will designate a timeline to foster regular interaction and provide direction in the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding to ensure progress in areas of mutual benefit.

Item 4: Final Provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding and does not create any legal, equitable, or financial rights, obligations, or liabilities for the Participants.

This Memorandum of Understanding between the State of Indiana in the United States of America and the Government of the Slovak Republic will come into effect on the day of its signature.

This MOU may be modified through discussion in the working group format and all amendments or modifications must be signed in writing by the Parties.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either Participant no earlier than 45 days after it provides written notice of the termination to the other Participant. Within those 45 days, the Participants will consult and finalize any outstanding matters. Termination will not affect the validity of any contracts facilitated by this Memorandum of Understanding.

The foregoing represents the understanding reached between the Participants on the matters referred to in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in Bratislava on May 21, 2018 in the English and Slovak languages, both texts having equal validity.

For the State of Indiana

By: 

Eric J. Holcomb

Governor of the State of Indiana, United States of America

For the Government of the Slovak Republic

By: 

Peter Žiga

Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic