ASCEND

Aerospace Supply Chain
El Paso Network for Defense

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AEROSPACE & DEFENSE INDUSTRIES

WHAT IS THE ASCEND PROGRAM?

A STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.



- Funded by the **Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the City of El Paso and the UTEP Aerospace Center.**
- Linked to the **Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) program**.
- Supported by the **United States-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC)** along with regional partners.
- Objective**: Elevate operational readiness for Small- and Medium-sized Manufacturers (SMMs) to secure direct industry connections.**

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SUPPLY CHAIN CONNECTIVITY

DIRECT BRIDGE TO TOP-TIER INDUSTRY PLAYERS.

The program builds a direct path for participants to connect with:

- OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers).
- Tier primes.
- Public and private defense agencies.

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WHY PARTICIPATE?

GLOBAL MARKET DRIVERS

CAPITALIZE ON LONG-TERM MACRO TRENDS AND NEARSHORING

- Expanding Global Demand: Capitalize on a highly stable market exceeding 28,000 commercial aircraft and 54,000 military platforms with long 15-to-35-year procurement cycles.
- Nearshoring & Supply Chain Resilience: Respond directly to the urgent demand for import substitution and supply chain security across North America as a certified local supplier.

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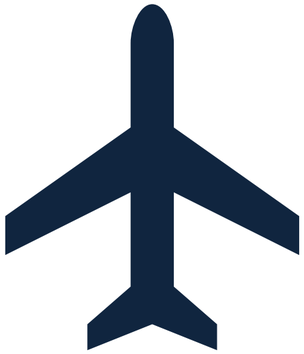
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KEY PROGRAM BENEFITS

ACCESS TO ELITE BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AND TOOLS AT ZERO COST.



- TechBA War Room (TWR): Specialized acceleration methodology will be deployed exclusively for 25 selected companies.
- Market Keynote Webinar: Advanced industry market overview and strategic briefing.
- Specialized Training & Frameworks:
- Investor Pitch Training: Module for refining executive business messaging.
- SBIR/STTBR Funding: Targeted training on federal innovation grants and funding streams.
- USPTO Processes: Dedicated webinar mapping out patent and intellectual property strategies.
- Commercial Technical Training: 3 different training webinars plus an interactive, in-person training bootcamp focused on RFQ, Costing, and Pricing Structure.

KEY PROGRAM BENEFITS

TechBA War Room



Market Keynote



Specialized Frameworks



Legal
USPTO



Executive
Presentation



Secure
Financias

Commercial Bootcamp



ACCESS TO ELITE BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE AND TOOLS AT ZERO COST.

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PERFORMANCE FUNNEL

A structured development pathway designed to assess, select, and accelerate your manufacturing capabilities for the A&D industry.

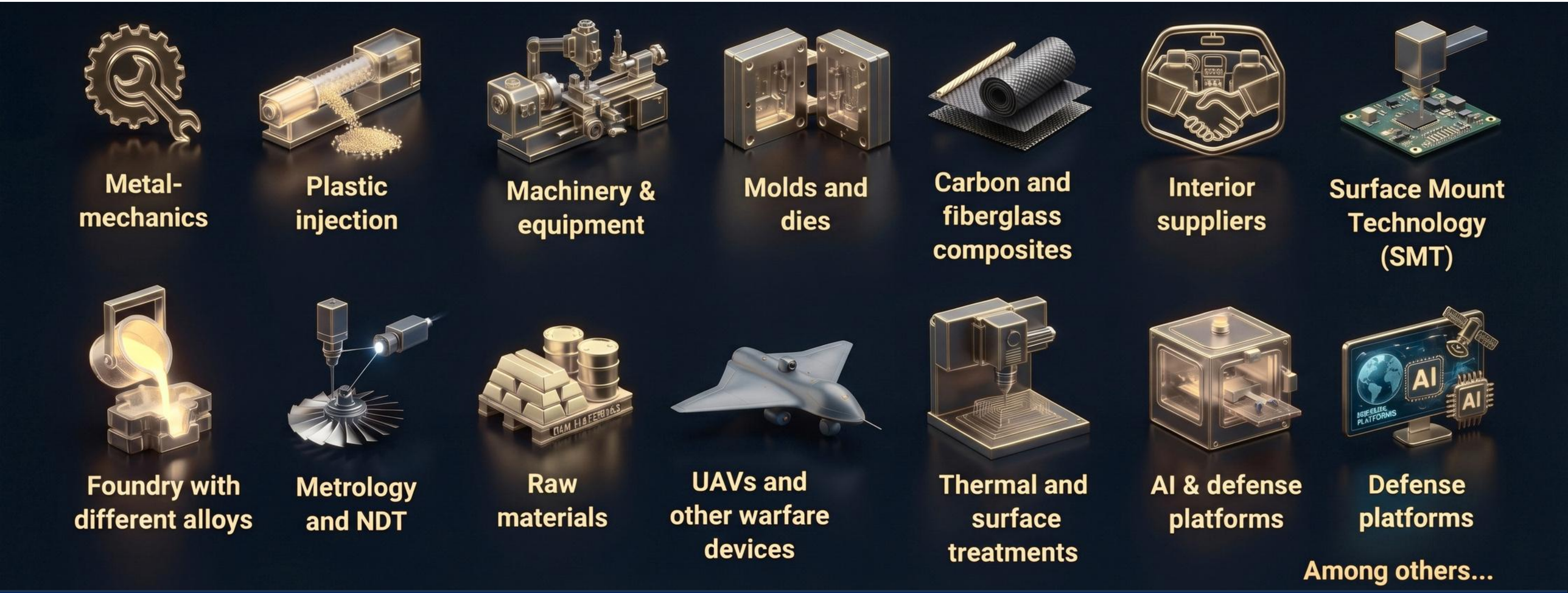


Your Acceleration Pathway (Step-by-Step):

- **Step 1: Elite Cohort Joining** → Secure your place among a selected group of **50 forward-thinking small- and medium-sized manufacturers (SMMs) entering the initial pool.**
- **Step 2: Operational Baseline** → Receive a comprehensive, **zero-cost Corporate Capability Maturity Assessment** to clearly map out your operational baselines and gaps.
- **Step 3: Premium Acceleration Tier** → Qualify to become one of the **Top 25 regional companies** to unlock the intensive**, high-impact TechBA War Room (TWR) methodology.**

TARGET COMPANY PROFILE

LOOKING FOR CORE INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES



Among others...

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PARTICIPATION PATHWAY (6-MONTH PROGRAM)

A STRUCTURED 4-PHASE JOURNEY TOWARD INDUSTRY INTEGRATION



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A PREMIUM, FULLY FUNDED PARTNERSHIP BUILT FOR YOUR GROWTH



- **Regional Support:** Gain direct access to elite international aerospace and defense consultants at Zero Cost to your firm. This program is fully funded by the U.S. EDA and the City of El Paso through the West Texas Aerospace and Defense Coalition.
- **FUMEC Operational Excellence:** Benefit from seasoned experts on a program with world-class execution and tangible industrial metrics.
- **Your Executive Commitment:** In exchange for this elite consultancy, we require your leadership's active engagement:
  - Dedicate executive time to complete the initial A&D Capability Maturity Assessment.
  - Commit your core team to the intensive, high-impact TechBA War Room sessions if selected.
  - Maintain readiness for regional logistics and exclusive, in-person key events to expand your A&D market understanding.

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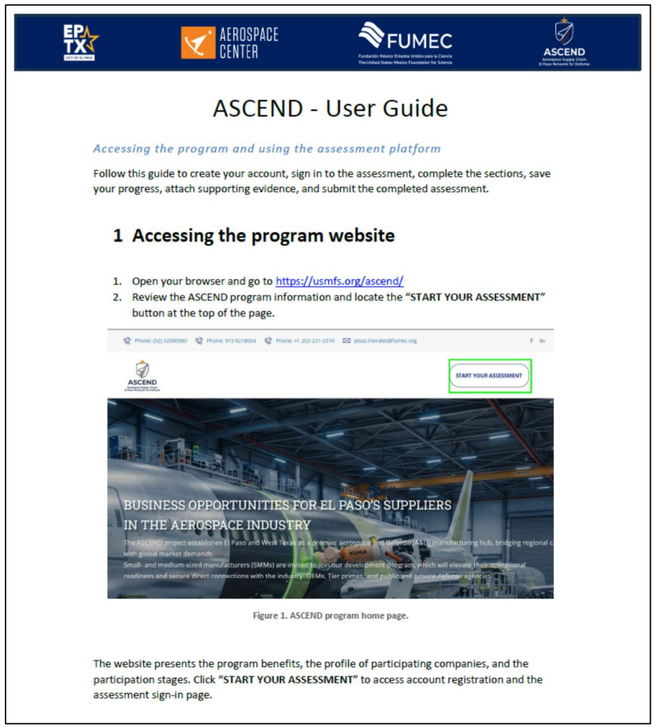
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Are you Ready?

Start your A&D Capability Maturity Assessment



ASCEND - User Guide

Accessing the program and using the assessment platform

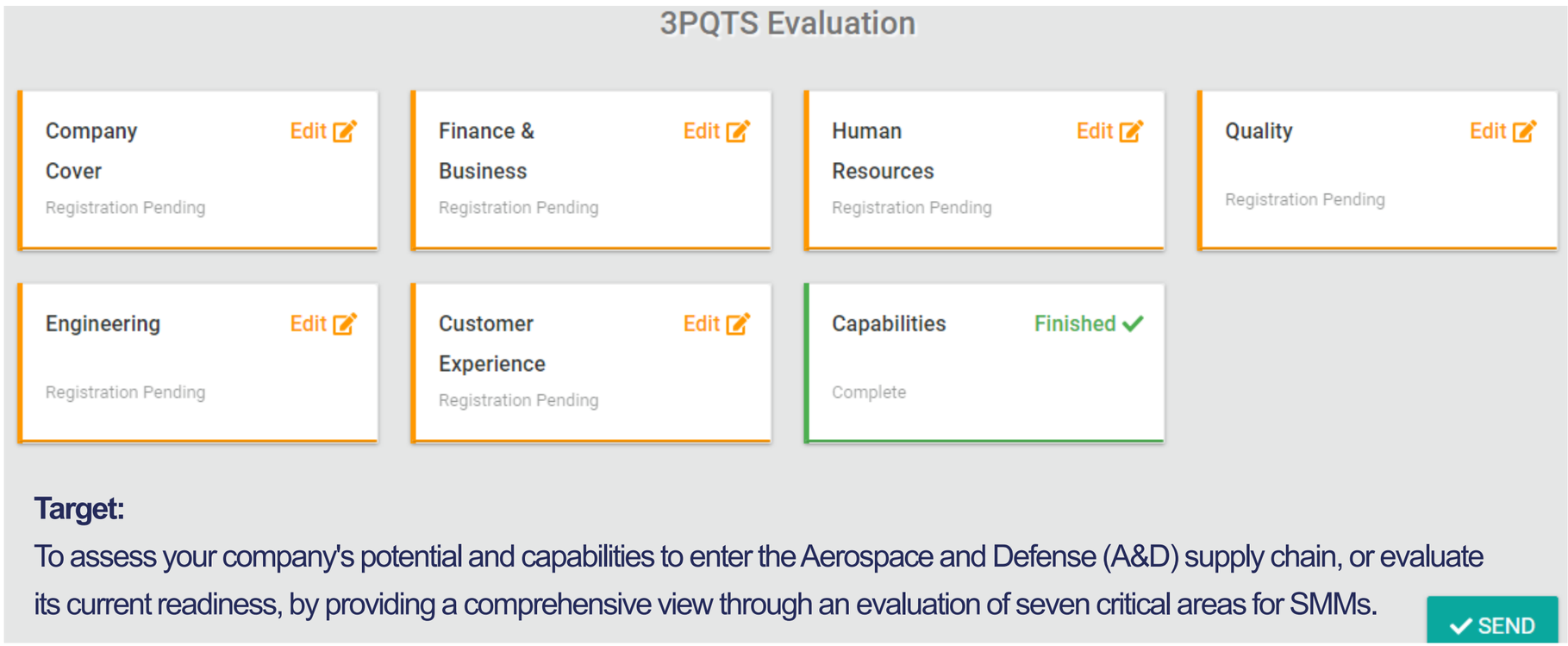
Follow this guide to create your account, sign in to the assessment, complete the sections, save your progress, attach supporting evidence, and submit the completed assessment.

1 Accessing the program website

1. Open your browser and go to https://usmfs.org/ascend/
2. Review the ASCEND program information and locate the **"START YOUR ASSESSMENT"** button at the top of the page.

Figure 1. ASCEND program home page.

The website presents the program benefits, the profile of participating companies, and the participation stages. Click **"START YOUR ASSESSMENT"** to access account registration and the assessment sign-in page.



Target:

To assess your company's potential and capabilities to enter the Aerospace and Defense (A&D) supply chain, or evaluate its current readiness, by providing a comprehensive view through an evaluation of seven critical areas for SMMs.

Further actions:

Through this diagnostic, we aim to identify key milestones to determine which companies are ideal candidates to receive specialized consulting through the TechBA War Room methodology—a strategic tool designed to help selected businesses accelerate their growth and strengthen their positioning within the sector.

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ANCHOR YOUR BUSINESS IN NORTH AMERICA'S PREMIER MANUFACTURING HUB

The Opportunity:
Position your plant/company to capture long-term stability in a market with 15-to-35-year procurement cycles, expanding global defense demand, and urgent regional nearshoring requirements.

Immediate Next Step:
Fast-track your company's advanced manufacturing capabilities by submitting your executive onboarding application today.

Apply Online Now:
www.usmfs.org/ascend/assessment

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