

POWERING DEFENSE

ENERGY RESILIENCE FOR THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY

NDIA New England and Converge Strategies co-hosted **Powering Defense: Energy Resilience for the Defense Industry**, a discussion and reception bringing together defense, energy, and government leaders in Burlington, MA.

NDIA New England, part of America's leading defense industry association, works with its **3,500 members to promote a strong, diverse New England security ecosystem through education, awareness, and advocacy.**

This document summarizes key takeaways from the June 2026 event.

THE NEW ENGLAND DEFENSE INDUSTRY IS IMPORTANT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

New England is home to thousands of defense industrial base (DIB) organizations providing materials, products, and services to the U.S. government. This includes research, development, and manufacturing of weapons platforms and armaments, among many other activities that are energy-intensive.

In FY24, the New England DIB received **\$45 billion** in defense contracts, accounting for **10%** of national defense contract spending and close to **3.2%** of regional GDP.

1 DEFENSE INDUSTRIES FACE ENERGY SYSTEM RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. DIB depends on a commercial grid under growing pressure from extreme weather, surging demand, and adversarial cyber threats, and New England's DIB faces these same challenges. Global energy markets are in rapid transition, with conflicts in Iran, Venezuela, and Ukraine impacting supply. Large economies are rapidly electrifying, with renewable energy and storage meeting most new demand. Defense capabilities depend on energy technologies with significant supply chain vulnerabilities, including critical minerals and component markets for drones, advanced batteries, and autonomous systems dominated by China.

2 DEFENSE INDUSTRIES CAN ENGAGE WITH THE ENERGY SYSTEM IN NEW WAYS

DIB organizations supply innovative energy technologies to the market, and depend on those technologies for the military capabilities they develop. Even brief outages or power quality issues can impact time-sensitive production and the bottom line. There are growing opportunities for DIB companies to adopt technologies such as distributed energy systems and controls to keep the lights on and power flowing. The DIB also has an opportunity to communicate its energy requirements and vulnerabilities to regulators and policymakers to inform grid planning and modernization decisions.

3 DEFENSE INDUSTRIES CAN FORGE NEW ENERGY AND RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIPS

New England's defense industries do not have to navigate energy resilience alone. New England states offer programs the DIB may be able to access for microgrids, mobile storage, and other resilience applications. Defense agencies fund energy innovation through ESTCP and regional resilience through the Defense Community Infrastructure Program, and the military is actively exploring new civilian partnerships on grid resilience. Utilities can partner with the DIB by collaborating on resilience projects at DIB sites, enhancing regional reliability, and by supporting start-ups and innovations related to energy and defense.

LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION ON WHAT'S NEXT ACROSS THE DEFENSE ENERGY RESILIENCE SPACE.

Wilson Rickerson | Converge Strategies | wrickerson@convergestratgies.com