

For Immediate Release
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CHICOSTART Signs MOU with Monterey Bay DART to Increase Innovation Pipelines for the North State

March 28, 2023 - Chico, CA: [Chicostart](https://www.chicostart.com/) is pleased to bring another valuable resource to the North State for entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses interested in drone, automation and robotics technology, with a recently signed collaboration Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the [Monterey Bay Drone, Automation and Robotics Technology \(DART\)](https://www.montereybaydrt.com/) initiative. This important partnership allows leveraging of resources, expertise and efforts to provide opportunities for:

1. Identifying and supporting the "best value" drone, automation and robotics technology solutions to meet the current and future market demands and stimulate entrepreneurship; and
2. Collaborating on programming, outreach and engagement with university and private sector innovators to increase innovation pipelines.

This partnership fits within Chicostart's Inclusive Innovation Hub2, supporting sectors in wildfire, Agtech, cleantech, water, robotics, advanced manufacturing, national security and wildfire/forest management in rural counties that include underserved communities. Chicostart and DART believe this collaboration will contribute to the curation and resilience of the California Statewide entrepreneurial ecosystem.

“The economic implications of commercial drone use are undeniable. The market for drones is estimated to be \$127 billion across a variety of industries. On a [macroeconomic](#) scale, the integration of UAVs could create more than 100,000 jobs in California alone. Job creation from commercial drone use will consist primarily of manufacturing jobs and drone operators. The implications clearly have a positive impact on businesses and consumers. Our relationship with D.A.R.T. will introduce new industry and support pilot programs. We are excited to bring this to the North State.” stated Eva Shepherd-Nicoll, Executive Director of Chicostart.

“MBDART is thrilled to expand its partnership beyond the Central Coast to support DART-related innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the Golden State. Our industry, academia, public agency and philanthropy partners recognize the potential of these emerging technologies to help solve major challenges such as agricultural efficiency, wildfire risk reduction and management, infrastructure safety and security and many others. We look forward to working with the ChicoStart community to bring value to the North State.” stated Josh Metz, Monterey Bay DART Executive Director.

Interested in learning how to connect with Monterey Bay DART? Contact Eva Shepherd-Nicoll at eva@chicostart.com or visit www.montereydart.org.

In April 2022, Chicostart was 1 of 10 designees awarded the statewide iHUB2 grant from CalOSBA. Chicostart’s iHUB2 designation covers over 20+ counties in Northern California, focusing on building the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem for equitable access to entrepreneurial resources with inclusive ecosystem expansion into our rural and diverse communities. This includes expanding Chicostart's growTECH and entrepreneurial initiative throughout the region.

About Chicostart: Chicostart supports and enriches Northern California’s Entrepreneurial Ecosystem by providing small business, entrepreneurs and startups the resources they need to succeed. Our platform includes shared office amenities, mentoring, workshops, internships, tech talks, student to business projects, entrepreneurial events, satellite office programs, and anything else that helps our core mission of helping startups succeed. As a GO-BIZ iHub for the Far North, the Chicostart ecosystem includes but is not limited to investors, technologists, entrepreneurs, students, educators, local businesses, agencies and mentors.

About MBDART

The Monterey Bay Drone, Automation and Robotics Technology (DART) initiative is a 501 c3 public benefit corporation working with industry, academia, public agencies and philanthropy to deliver innovative, future-relevant, workforce and economic development solutions. DART leads public-private partnership apprenticeship programs with emerging technology manufacturers, completes technical and market studies to raise awareness about ecosystem and technology potential, and offers events throughout the year to bring together interested stakeholders for networking, collaboration, and strengthening the DART ecosystem. More information available online at <https://MBDART.org>

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