

# SEDC aims to boost technology design opportunities

'EDI Squared' could make Capital Region a leading area in integrated circuit and electronic system design

Ann Friedman  
@FriedmanGazette  
| June 29, 2018

**SARATOGA COUNTY** — The Saratoga Economic Development Corp. on Friday announced its latest initiative, "EDI Squared," which aims to make the Capital Region a hub for integrated circuit and electronic system design firms.

SEDC President Dennis Brobston said the effort -- the acronym is for Electronic Design and Innovation -- will grow the number of engineers with design experience, provide affordable access to design software, establish workforce preparedness and commercialization development.

"The semiconductor industry lives in four main hubs of activity — research and development, design, manufacturing and packaging system implementation," he said. "While New York has dramatically grown research and development and manufacturing, design has lagged in the area of focused investment."

SEDC will partner with National Grid, Clarkson University, SUNY Adirondack, Center for Economic Growth, U.S. Small Business Administration and other entities to realize the goals of EDI Squared.

SUNY Adirondack President Kristine Duffy said the college, which has campuses in Queensbury and Wilton, will implement programs to increase the region's pool of skilled technology workers.

**"We've partnered with companies like GlobalFoundries to educate and train multi-skilled technicians to meet the region's needs," she said. "We want to develop programming that responds to the 21st century workers of tomorrow."**

**Duffy said SUNY Adirondack will serve as a workforce transition point, providing programs that students transition into the technology industry.**

**"We're going to work with academic and industry partners to develop programs that give those with degrees or those who are already in the workforce the tools necessary to transition into these leading tech areas," she said.**

**Brobston said SEDC is exploring state, federal and private funding, with plans to market the initiative early next year in order to meet an anticipated start date of April 1.**

**"With operational, academic and private investment, EDI Squared is anticipated to create five to 15 jobs in year one, with the potential to create over 100 jobs in five years," he said. "This bold new initiative will help transform our region's efforts to attract technology employers of diverse sizes and focuses."**

**Ron Richards, owner of RASP Inc. in Gansevoort, which manufactures industrial controls, said EDI Squared is a "tremendous opportunity" for the region.**

**"A lot of engineers don't have the design experience, and it's very costly for businesses to teach that, so to bring in design opportunities and businesses is great," he said. "The smaller integrated controls go into my products, so my business could likely use the services.**

**"If not, the benefits of those who use the services will support my business, because it takes the small control circuits to make the larger ones I manufacture."**

**Michele Madigan, commissioner of finance for the City of Saratoga Springs, said the initiative would provide more jobs and help boot the area's reputation as a technology hub.**

**"As finance commissioner, I pay attention to whether people are buying homes and if people are visiting downtown and enjoying the arts and entertainment the city offers," she said. "When you create something like this that in turn creates jobs, it attracts more people to want to come here, live here and be part of the community.**

**"This is some of the best news I've heard in this region in a very long time."**