National Security Collaboration Center

Nation’s top cybersecurity program leaps forward with infrastructure investments to advance public-private partnerships in the interest of national security
The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) seeks to establish the **National Security Collaboration Center**, which will focus on the advancement of research, education, and workforce development in the areas of cybersecurity, data analytics, and cloud computing as they apply to national security, for which there is an immediate national need.

UTSA is programming a new 5-story building to enhance the cybersecurity ecosystem in the region. The new **Computational Research Building (CRB)** will provide 50,000 square feet of state-of-the-art space that will house all computational capabilities, including a **Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF)** and an **Innovation Factory** where academia, industry and government can rapidly develop products for application in the national security enterprise.

Federal, state, and local agencies are calling for greater collaboration related to America’s national security infrastructure protection. Business and local government partners will have direct access to the technical expertise, highly trained students and specialized facilities that make UTSA a premier program in cybersecurity.
The CRB will include:

- A new state-of-the-art visualization laboratory for researchers to translate data into images on large-scale, high resolution digital walls or other devices
- A high-performance computing center to support the research and development of algorithms and systems that address computational- and data-intensive problems
- Access to one of the largest Open Cloud platforms in academia utilizing OpenStack software
- A business incubator to assist faculty, students and external partners with rapidly developing prototypes and concepts that can be commercialized for public good
- A sensitive compartmented information facility (SCIF) to support classified research and information exchange
- Operational, research, and training environments for cyber protection operations and investigations

The CRB will be a magnet attracting diverse thinkers and problem-solvers who will join the national security conversation to uncover transdisciplinary solutions. Current plans for the five-story building located on the UTSA Main Campus include allocating two floors exclusively to our government partners.
The UTSA program rests on a number of strong partnerships with the public and private sectors. Federal partners include the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, the 24th Air Force Cyber Command, the 25th Air Force (specializing in intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance agency), as well as with National Security Agency Texas (NSA Texas), which together account for more than 7,000 military and civilian jobs. Additional federal partners include the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Navy, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Potential private sector partners include Cisco, Raytheon, Booz Allen Hamilton, Accenture, and Noblis.

UTSA works closely with government and industry partners to stay at the forefront of the development of cybersecurity workshops, tabletop exercises, and national competitions to promote success in operational environments. Furthermore, partners would have the ability to directly recruit top performing students, with the potential to engage these students in internship and training programs prior to their graduation. As an institution known for innovation, UTSA has extensive experience in assisting researchers from across San Antonio in transitioning their intellectual property to practice.

By providing the space to support and expand the consortium committed to solving cyber-related national security challenges, we expect to attract additional companies who will co-locate their facilities on or near campus, creating more jobs and further solidifying San Antonio’s place as a leader in cyber national security. Benefits of co-location include cost avoidance, cost sharing, access to renowned faculty and leveraging their expertise, a pipeline of highly trained students, use of UTSA facilities and support for accelerated innovation and technology transfer.

Whether it be to accelerate new cybersecurity solutions or to conceive of novel technologies to counter transnational criminal organizations, government-industry-academic collaboration at UTSA helps drive innovation and subsequent solutions with global impact.
Through the **UT System Chancellor’s 2015 Vision**, a series of eight initiatives called ‘Quantum Leaps’ has been identified to address complex societal challenges. Aligning specifically with the UT Network for National Security, UTSA is particularly well-positioned to contribute to cybersecurity, data analytics and cloud computing research, education and workforce development for the benefit of our federal partners.

Since leading San Antonio in its first mock cyber terrorism exercise back in 1999 – the first city in the U.S. to do so – UTSA has taken a national lead in the cybersecurity realm, and current expansion of our cyber efforts demonstrates the institution’s commitment to the UT Quantum Leaps.

Recent surveys of cybersecurity professionals ranked the UTSA program as the #1 education program in cybersecurity in the United States in 2014 (Ponemon Institute for Hewlett Packard) and the #2 graduate program in cybersecurity in 2016 (Universities.com).

With over a thousand undergraduate students studying cyber and related fields, the program spans four colleges – including the Colleges of Business, Engineering, Liberal & Fine Arts, and Sciences. It also includes four nationally recognized research centers, the **Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS)**, the **Institute for Cyber Security (ICS)**, the **Cyber Center for Security & Analytics**, and the **Open Cloud Institute (OCI)**. The colleges also offer cyber programs including aspects of national security in non-STEM fields such as ethics, behavior, policy, languages and culture. In fall 2017, UTSA began offering a fully online B.B.A. in Cyber Security.
UTSA is a large public university, occupying 725 acres on the northern edge of San Antonio and is one of the state’s fastest growing public universities. Sixty-one percent (61.3%) of UTSA’s nearly 30,000 students come from population groups underrepresented in higher education: Hispanics (52.02%), African Americans (9.05%), and American Indian/Alaskan Native (0.23%).

UTSA is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), which provides preferential access to a wide array of federal grants and contacting mechanisms. Federal and industry partners could benefit directly for research, training and workforce development. UTSA also has a track record of applying and successfully being awarded large and prestigious grants in all facets of cyber research.

Since launching its program in 1999, UTSA has received over $100 million in sponsored project funding from federal agencies such as the US Department of Homeland Security, the Air Force, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Security Agency, the Office of Naval Research, and the Army and Defense Information System Agency (DISA).

UTSA was also chosen as a founding member of the Army Reserve Cyber Private Public Partnership Program (Cyber P3), which is designed to train Reservists in cybersecurity and provide them with the skills necessary to defend the nation against threats from cyber terrorists and criminals.

The creation of this National Security Collaboration Center would be significant for UTSA, as it would further solidify the institution as a research center and destination for cybersecurity. It would also be the means to project the institution towards being nationally recognized as research intensive university, and have an impact to further catapult the institution towards rankings such as the Texas National Research University Fund and Carnegie Classification R1 designation.
Computational Research Building (CRB)

Estimated Costs

$12,500,000

5TH Floor
National Security Collaboration Center | Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF)

$5,000,000

4TH Floor
Government and Industry Partners Space/Joint Research Space for Partner Collaboration

$5,000,000

3RD Floor
Business Incubator/Innovation Factory

$5,000,000

2ND Floor
Cyber, Cloud Computing and Analytics Research Centers

$5,000,000

1ST Floor
Research IT: Visualization Lab | High Performance and Cloud Computing | Data Center

Additional Cost:
$7.5 million for Technology Infrastructure
One of the top five young universities in the nation
— Times Higher Education

No. 1 cybersecurity undergraduate program in the nation
— Hewlett-Packard / Ponemon Institute

Cybersecurity graduate program ranked No. 2 in the nation
— Universities.com

National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research

National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense
— National Security Agency / Department of Homeland Security

Best for Vets College in 2016
— Military Times

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