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Innovare Advancement Center to Announce Kickoff of Annual Aspire Series at Ask Me Anything Event

The Innovare Aspire Challenge Series and Innovare Aspire Summit event will serve as the flagship annual event for the Innovare Advancement Center



Rome, NY – Innovare Advancement Center, in partnership with the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate (AFRL/RI) and AFWERX, and supported by the Griffiss Institute, announces it will host the Innovare Aspire Ask Me Anything event where the [Innovare Aspire Series](#), as well as five research challenges, will be revealed.

On **Thursday, May 13, 2021, 1:00 – 4:00 pm**, public and private organizations that share a passion for solving common challenges are invited to attend the [Innovare Aspire Series Ask Me Anything](#) (AMA), via Airmeet. The AFRL will announce the kickoff of the annual Innovare Aspire Series, and a call for science and technology partnerships with five research challenges in transfer learning, autonomous agents, data assurance, real-time simulation, and video scene captioning.

The Innovare Aspire Series AMA will feature presentations and discussions from scientists and engineers at AFRL who authored the challenges, as well as keynotes from current collaborators who will showcase their motivation to partner with AFRL to find solutions on diverse capabilities in United States Air Force and United States Space Force strategic priority areas. There will also be networking opportunities as well as facilitated question and answer sessions for all participants.

“AFRL is excited to host the inaugural Aspire Challenge Series and invite both domestic and international



collaborators to seek transformational research and development partnerships with industry, academia, and other organizations," says **Karen Roth, Chief Engineer, Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate**. "We want events like the Aspire Challenge Series to be the model for future collaborations and a force multiplier to accelerate innovation and the future of the United States Air Force."

Innovare Aspire Series is an annual campaign to converge diverse capabilities in United States Air Force and United States Space Force strategic priority areas such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, cyber, nanoelectronics, neuromorphic computing, quantum, and UAS; organize and motivate diverse teams to tackle specific technical challenges; and deliver high-impact, performance-ready capabilities that enhance American competitiveness through diversified commercialization pathways.

The Innovare Aspire Series Research Challenges are:

- **Planning and Autonomous Control:** Transfer Learning of Control Policies
- **Planning and Autonomous Control:** Hierarchical Heterogeneous Planning
- **Software Assurance:** Untrusted Data – Validation of Data Transmission Algorithms
- **Planning and Autonomous Control:** Artificial Intelligence for Theater Multi-Domain Operations
- **Image Content Exploitation:** Video Scene Captioning – The Pursuit of a Rapidly Advancing Captioner

"We want the inaugural Innovare (pronounced "Inn-oh-VAR-ay") Aspire Challenge Series to become an annual flagship event, using the Innovare Advancement Center as a catalyst to engage potential research partners and create foundational advancements in artificial intelligence, machine learning, software assurance, and image captioning," says **Anthony Newton, Open Innovation Operations Lead, Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate**. "It's a team effort to defend our nation and keep our economy strong."

Applicants with research concepts and collaboration proposals that have the best alignment with the future research needs of the AFRL will be invited to the Innovare Aspire Summit, a virtual event facilitated by [AFRL's Information Directorate](#) and [AFWERX](#). At this event, prospective partners will convene on novel ways to tackle the Innovare Aspire Series challenges through collaborative agreements.

The Innovare Aspire Summit will take place August 17-19, 2021.

To register for the Innovare Aspire Ask Me anything, please visit:

<https://www.airmeet.com/e/9ab65330-8ced-11eb-945e-e369205b2fd2>

For more information about Innovare Aspire Series and to view the research challenges, please visit:

<https://www.innovare.org/aspire>

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About Innovare Advancement Center

Innovare Advancement Center aims to be a global catalyst to converge world-class talent with cutting-edge



facilities and focused technology challenges to accelerate the development of game-changing capabilities that protect and empower our country. An open innovation environment immediately adjacent to Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate in Rome, NY, Innovare Advancement Center offers a globally connected innovation ecosystem in which world-class scientific, engineering, and entrepreneurial talent from universities, government, and industry can leverage highly specialized resources in critical research areas, including artificial intelligence/machine learning, cybersecurity, quantum, and unmanned aerial systems to tackle the country's greatest challenges to national security and economic competitiveness. To learn more, visit innovare.org.