

NATIONAL INNOVATION QUARTER

National Innovation Quarter (National IQ) Attracts New Defense, Venture Capital, and Innovation Partners to Join its Growing Ecosystem

Four New Organizations Open Offices within the National IQ, Deepening National Landing's Innovation Ecosystem across Arlington and Alexandria, VA

ARLINGTON, Va. (August 11, 2026) – Four organizations spanning defense technology, venture capital, and innovation have moved into the [National Innovation Quarter](#) (National IQ), with offices at 1550 Crystal Drive in National Landing, further cementing National IQ as a driver of cross-sector collaboration in the region.

[National IQ's](#) organizational office, [Silicon Valley Defense Group](#), [VC in DC](#), and [Virtus Innovation Center](#) have begun operations at 1550 Crystal Drive in National Landing's innovation district. Each organization plays an integral role in building an ecosystem aligned with National IQ's mission to create a transformative innovation district that strengthens the United States' competitive edge. The organizations are connecting innovators to the D.C. region's unmatched concentration of government, industry, and academic talent.

“National IQ was built on the premise that proximity drives collaboration, and collaboration drives breakthroughs. By bringing together defense innovators, venture capitalists, and startup builders, we're creating the space for cross-sector partnerships between organizations that share the goal of strengthening our local and national competitiveness. These new groups bolster National IQ's expertise portfolio for serving as a trusted resource in accelerating delivery of advanced technologies for government and national security applications,” said Michael Hauser, Board Chair, National IQ and Managing Partner, SAIC Ventures.

Enabling this co-location is [JBG Smith](#), the real estate investment trust that owns and operates mixed-use properties across National Landing and has been instrumental in shaping the neighborhood's innovation ecosystem.

“National Landing has always been more than a place to work - it's a place where ideas collide and industries converge. We're proud to support National IQ's vision by providing the physical infrastructure that makes this kind of collaboration possible. When the right organizations share a space, the results extend far beyond the walls of any single building,” said Evan Regan-Levine, Chief Strategy Officer, JBG Smith.

Silicon Valley Defense Group, which relocated to National Landing from the Ballston neighborhood, is now positioned in close-proximity to the resources needed to achieve its mission of connecting people, ideas, and capital to ensure that the U.S. and its allies retain a techno-security edge.

“Our work depends on strong connections across government, industry, and the investment community. Moving to 1550 Crystal Drive puts us closer to many of those partners and gives us a useful home base for convening the people working in our ecosystem. We’re excited to join the National IQ community and see what new connections come from co-locating with other mission-driven organizations,” said Mike Keating, Executive Director, Silicon Valley Defense Group.

For **VC in DC**, the move marks the group’s first-ever physical presence -- and they chose National Landing as their headquarters. The office space will provide member venture capitalists a home base when visiting the D.C. area. VC in DC will also host intimate roundtables between startups and VCs, as well as other networking events designed to accelerate deal flow and collaboration.

“Our members have always come to this region to find the next great deal. Now they have a home here in the National Innovation Quarter — surrounded by the founders and mission partners who make those deals happen,” said Bill Collier, Director, Noblis Ventures, Co-lead, VC in DC.

Virtus Innovation Center, which opened at 1550 Crystal Drive in May 2026, is the first innovation center of its kind near the Pentagon purpose-built for founders commercializing technology critical to national security. Virtus houses a vetted community of mission-aligned startups working side by side to move their technologies out of the valley of death and into defense and intelligence programs with speed. Members get more than space — they get dedicated programming and an ecosystem of partners with the expertise and relationships to compress the time from prototype to fielded capability.

"The technologies that will define national security and defense over the next decade are being built right now by a new generation of startups. Our job is to give them the flexible infrastructure and curated relationships that used to take years to assemble. The National IQ district concentrates the government access, industry heavyweights, and academic partners our startups need in one place — in close proximity to their largest customer— that's why we're here, said" Megan Fellows, Director, Virtus Innovation Center.

Last month, Arlington County announced that National IQ was awarded nearly \$4 million to support its programming from GO Virginia, a state-funded initiative administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. The funding aims to strengthen and diversify Virginia's economy, fostering the creation of higher wage jobs in strategic industries.

The momentum generated by the GO Virginia funding further accelerates the evolution and impact of the entire National Landing ecosystem.

1550 Crystal Drive will also serve as the initial office for **National IQ**’s staff as the organization scales its team and programming. Over the next two years, the \$4 million from GO Virginia will support the continued evolution of National IQ by building the 501(c)6 nonprofit's operations capacity to convene

industry, academic and government partners and strengthen the region's innovation ecosystem. Specifically, the funds will support the creation of the Innovation Lab, a new secure facility for emerging technology collaboration and prototyping; workforce development through the National Security Innovation Capstone Initiative (NSICI) in partnership with Virginia Tech; and four accelerator and startup programs designed to help entrepreneurs scale cutting-edge technologies and access new markets.

“The organizations setting up shop in the National Innovation Quarter reflect the momentum we are seeing across National Landing. Companies are choosing to be here because they can tap into an unmatched combination of talent, capital, government and private-sector partners, all within a connected urban setting. As more organizations put down roots, they strengthen our community, create new connections that attract additional investment, and reinforce National Landing's position as one of the Country's leading innovation districts,” said Tracy Sayegh Gabriel, President and CEO of the National Landing BID.

About National IQ

National Innovation Quarter (National IQ) is a multi-sector innovation district based in National Landing, spanning Arlington and Alexandria in Northern Virginia. By uniting mission-driven national security priorities with cutting-edge technology, National IQ advances solutions with global impact while driving sustained regional economic growth. Created to strengthen the United States' competitive edge, National IQ is forged at the nexus of government, industry, academia, and entrepreneurship. The initiative leverages National Landing's existing innovation ecosystem, catalyzing cross-sector collaboration, delivering year-round programming and notable initiatives, and bolstering startups and emerging technologies. For more information, visit www.national-iq.com or follow on LinkedIn at [@NationalInnovationQuarter](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nationalinnovationquarter).