



City of Austin

Kirk Watson, Mayor

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To whom it may concern:

I write in support of Occam Foundry, the quantum technology campus planned for 16.5 acres in southeastern Travis County. Austin wants this project and Texas needs it.

The Legislature created the Texas Quantum Initiative in 2025 under HB 4751 and pointed it at commercially relevant infrastructure: networks, hardware systems, and the real estate to house them. Occam Foundry is that infrastructure. It puts a working quantum system, advanced packaging and test, and the companies commercializing quantum on one campus, so a design can move from idea to prototype to working system without leaving the state. Today that work happens elsewhere, and the companies and jobs follow it. Texas ranks eighth among the states on quantum patent families and hosts none of the research centers created under the National Quantum Initiative Act, while Illinois, Maryland and Colorado are turning theirs into firms and talent. In June, two federal executive orders set a 2028 target for a scientific-scale quantum computer and 2030 and 2031 deadlines for moving federal systems to post-quantum cryptography. Siting decisions are being made now.

The economic case is a statewide one. McKinsey's 2026 Quantum Technology Monitor puts energy and materials among the industries with the most value to gain from quantum computing by 2035, and Texas leads the country in that industry. ExxonMobil, Halliburton and Baker Hughes are in the Houston area. Texas Instruments and the defense primes are in Dallas-Fort Worth. USAA is in San Antonio. Those companies will adopt quantum technology somewhere. A campus in Austin that commercializes it means the suppliers, the spinouts and the trained workforce stay in Texas, and the productivity gains land in Texas industry first. Austin is the right hub, with the University of Texas, the Army's Transformation and Training Command and a deep advanced-manufacturing base. Houston, Dallas and San Antonio put the work to use. Other states built their clusters around a federal lab. Texas can build one around the industries it already owns, and give the Texas Quantum Initiative a place to deliver on its purpose.

Growing our life sciences industry took a medical school and more than a decade before it produced a thousand jobs. Quantum will take patience too, and the infrastructure has to come first. That includes people. Making Austin the best place to be a kid means the careers we create here are within reach of the kids growing up here, and I welcome your plan to open the campus to Austin ISD and Del Valle ISD teachers and students, with classroom visits, teacher training and a pipeline into the trades and technical roles a facility like this will need. Fifth graders in Del Valle should be able to see the work being done a few miles from their school and picture themselves doing it. My office and the City's economic development staff will work with you on site readiness and permitting, and I will advocate for the state and federal partnerships this campus needs.

Sincerely,

Kirk Watson
Mayor of Austin

*The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*