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# The Quantum Economic Development Consortium (QED-C): Growing the quantum industry

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*QED-C*

## Biography

Dr. Celia Merzbacher is the Executive Director of the Quantum Economic Development Consortium (QED-C), a global consortium of nearly 250 stakeholders from industry, academia and government that aims to grow the quantum industry and associated supply chain. Dr. Merzbacher has two decades of experience leading technology initiatives and partnerships. Previously, she was Vice President for Innovative Partnerships at the Semiconductor Research Corporation, a consortium of the semiconductor industry. In 2003-2008, she was Assistant Director for Technology R&D in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy where she led the multi-agency National Nanotechnology Initiative. She also served as Executive Director of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). Dr. Merzbacher is a Fellow of the AAAS and serves on the Innovation Policy Forum of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM). She advises the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue University, as well as advisory boards of several university centers and institutes. She is past chair of the NASEM National Materials and Manufacturing Board and was on the Board of Directors of the American National Standards Institute. Dr. Merzbacher began her career as a research scientist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, where her research in optical materials led to numerous scientific publications and six patents.

**Abstract**

The Quantum Economic Development Consortium (QED-C) is an industry-driven consortium of stakeholders, managed by SRI International, that aims to enable and grow the quantum industry and supply chain. The consortium was called for in the U.S. National Quantum Initiative Act of 2018 and is supported by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and approximately 250 corporate, academic and other members. Today, QED-C is open to members from select countries around the world and is building a trusted community of innovators from like-minded countries. Through the work of member volunteers, QED-C seeks to identify and address gaps in enabling technologies, standards and benchmarks, workforce and policies to accelerate the development of quantum technologies for economic and societal benefit. With its global membership and in partnership with other quantum industry associations, QED-C is helping quantum companies to expand their business and collaborations across borders and to strengthen the quantum ecosystem in accordance with international norms.