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Fairlead Launches Corporate Venture Capital Arm to Accelerate America's Shipbuilding Renaissance and Restore Maritime Dominance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTSMOUTH, Va., May 6, 2025 — Fairlead, a Virginia-based leader in maritime engineering, ship repair and advanced manufacturing, has launched Fairlead Ventures, a Corporate Venture Capital (CVC) arm focused on strengthening the U.S. maritime industrial base through strategic investments in dual-use technologies, advanced materials and supply chain innovation.

The formation of Fairlead Ventures underscores Fairlead's long-term commitment to revitalizing American shipbuilding capacity and securing domestic maritime supply chains. Aligned with national security and industrial policy priorities, Fairlead Ventures will partner with founders and startups delivering transformative capabilities in naval architecture, autonomy, propulsion systems, logistics optimization and digital shipyard technologies. The goal is to modernize infrastructure, shorten construction timelines and reassert U.S. leadership on the high seas.

"America's maritime advantage is a national imperative," said Fairlead Chair and CEO Jerry Miller. "With Fairlead Ventures, we are catalyzing the innovation ecosystem necessary to modernize our shipbuilding infrastructure, support the next generation of naval and commercial vessels and restore American maritime dominance for decades to come."

Fairlead Ventures will focus on early- to growth-stage companies, especially those enhancing resilience in defense manufacturing, accelerating lead times in naval construction and enabling commercial viability of next-generation maritime platforms. Fairlead brings not only capital but also deep sector expertise, customer access and infrastructure to accelerate deployment and scale.

The launch comes at a pivotal moment as geopolitical tensions, constrained industrial capacity and global supply chain shifts highlight the urgency of revitalizing the U.S. maritime sector. Fairlead's CVC initiative will act as a force multiplier for strategic public-private collaboration.

"Fairlead's customers long have benefited from our innovations in power, controls and energy systems for naval combatants," said Fairlead President Fred Pasquine. "Fairlead Ventures is more than just an investment platform — it's our commitment to backing the entrepreneurs and technologies that will strengthen readiness, resilience and innovation across the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense."

Fairlead Ventures plans to begin investing in the third quarter of 2025 and will prioritize technologies aligned with Department of Defense modernization goals, commercial maritime decarbonization and the revitalization of critical shipyard capabilities.

For investment and partnership opportunities, contact: James Blom, Corporate Development, jblom@fairlead.com

About Fairlead

Fairlead is a Virginia-based company specializing in shipbuilding, systems engineering and advanced manufacturing for the U.S. Navy and commercial maritime industries. It supports national security through ship construction and repair, autonomous systems and software, energy magazine and controls systems integration, fabrication and lifecycle support. Fairlead is a lead partner in the Maritime Industrial Base Virginia Talent Pipeline Program and is committed to workforce development and long-term industry sustainability. Learn more at fairlead.com.