Beyond SBIR Phase II: Bringing Technological Edge to the Warfighter

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Section 252 of NDAA for FY06: Commercialization Pilot Program (CPP)

- CPP intended “to accelerate the transition of technologies, products and services developed under SBIR to Phase III, including the acquisition process”
  - Authorization explicitly granted to SECDEF & Secretary of each military department, 4-year duration
- Identify SBIR programs with rapid transition potential
- Annual report to Small Business and Armed Services committees of both the House and Senate
- Authorizes use of up to 1% of SBIR set-aside funds to support the CPP administration

This legislation focuses on the perennial challenge of improving technology transition—and provides unique opportunity to experiment.
USD(AT&L) Goals seek enabling technologies…and robust supplier base

3 (of 7) AT&L Goals:
- Focused Technology
- Reliable and Cost-effective Industrial Capabilities
- Strategic & Tactical Acquisition Excellence

Small businesses are critical for the Department to provide future technologies to enable priority-critical warfighting capabilities.
The Fundamental SBIR Management Challenge

“Digging to the Future”

Will The “Tunnels” Meet?

SBIR “Pipeline”

Today’s Technology Ideas & Investments

Future Combat Capability Needs

SBIR Transitions

Technology Investment Focus

Transition Success

Approaching Future Needs

Transition success hinges upon strategically aligning technology investment with future capability needs.
SBIR Program is deceptively Complex…

CPP enables rapid value extraction, from any phase of program execution.
The DoD SBIR Program has twelve participating components, STTR has six—Military Departments comprise over 75% of budget.
Requests MILDEPs make firm link between S&T and acquisition communities to address high priority military needs.
CPP Implementation, Cont’d: Further USD(AT&L) Direction

July 12, 2007 Acting USD(AT&L) Memo

- Encourages remaining DoD SBIR Components to develop and implement CPPs
- Report plans and initial priority list to OSD by early October ‘07
- Support “Beyond Phase II” SBIR technology transition conference
- Make institutional and process changes required to improve SBIR program effectiveness

Encourages customized utilization of CPP authority…and collaboration to develop and transition technologies needed by the warfighter.
Today’s Panel and its Purpose

• Participants:
  – Army: Susan Nichols, SBIR Program Manager, RDECOM
  – Navy: John Williams, SBIR/STTR and T2 Programs Director, ONR
  – Air Force: Richard Flake, AF Senior Planner and CPP Manager, AFRL

• Key goals:
  – Describe CPP Vision
  – Provide insight into CPP Processes
  – Characterize Preferred Candidate for CPP
Back-ups