

Naval Information  
Warfare Center



ATLANTIC

Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic

# **NavalX**

## **Palmetto Tech Bridge**

### **Driving Innovation**

### **Through Partnerships**

CDCA Strategic Business and  
Industry Outreach Initiative (SBOI) Symposium  
15 July 2024

**Mr. Erik Gardner**

Director, Palmetto Tech Bridge  
Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Atlantic

# NAVALX



# Our Mission – Win All Phases of Strategic Competition



Acute Threats



Pacing Threat

## Our Timeline

### The “Davidson Window”

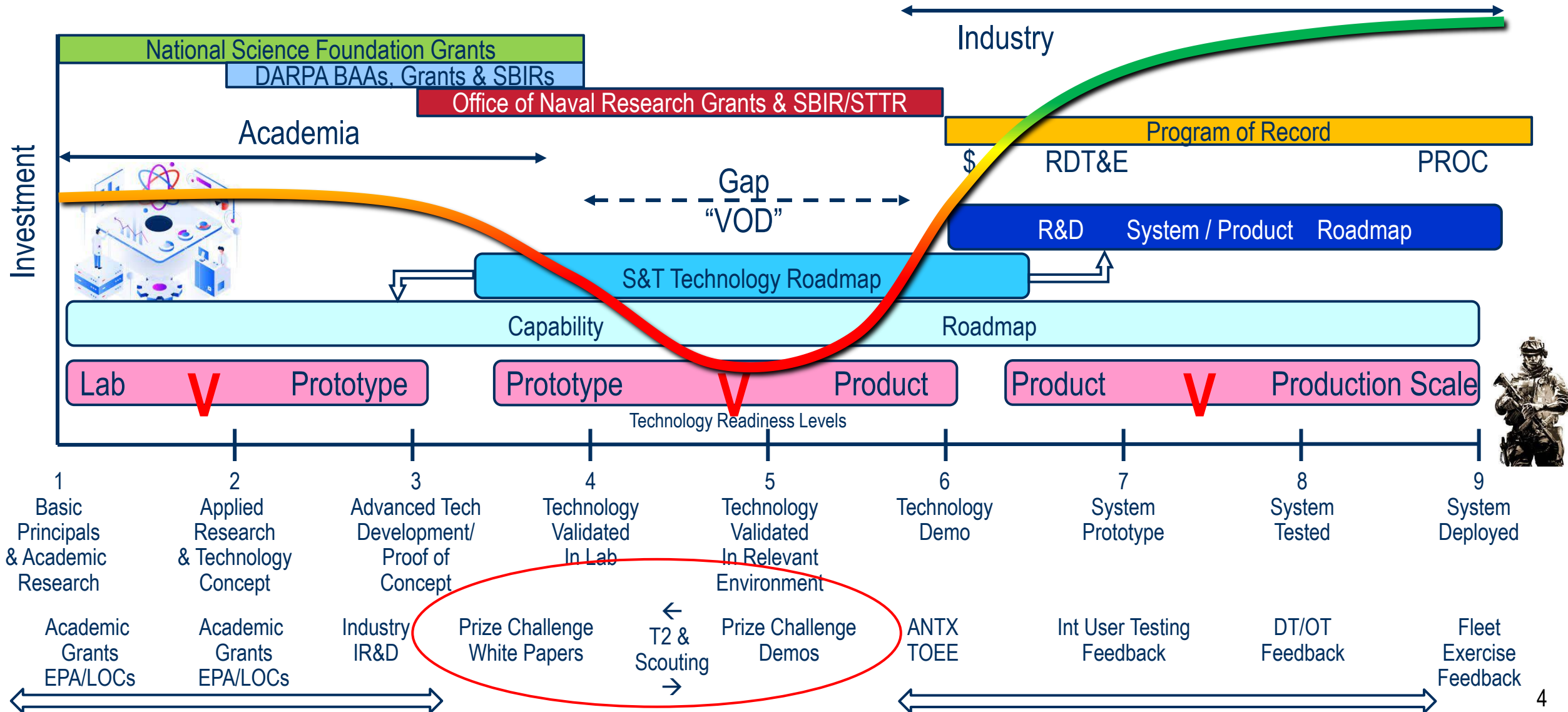
- ▼ In July of 2021, Adm. Phil Davidson, then-commander of US Indo-Pacific Command, testified to Congress that China may be prepared to act on its ambitions to control Taiwan by 2027.
- ▼ On March 21<sup>st</sup> 2024, Adm. John Aquilino, then head of Indo-Pacific Command in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee, said “all indications” point to the Chinese military being ready for a potential invasion of Taiwan by 2027.

**"No matter what China's timeline for war might be,  
America's timeline for deterrence is right now!"**

Dustin Walker, American Enterprise Institute, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> 2023

# Our Challenge: Bridging Multiple Valleys of Death (VOD)

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# Palmetto Tech Bridge

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## Technology Focus Areas:

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI/ML)/Autonomous Sys.**
- **Assured Communication**
- **Cybersecurity**
- **Live, Virtual, Constructive (LVC)**

The PTB will be the Navy's premier research incubator and applied technology transition leader in **Decision Advantage technologies**. Leveraging the expertise and facilities organic to NIWC Atlantic and our extensive partnerships with academia, other Service engineering activities, UARCs, National Laboratories, and industry, we will pioneer experimentation and new innovation in technologies that foster information advantage for our industry partners and greater lethality for our Naval & Joint Warfighters.



## A Decision Advantage Proving Ground

- Industry & Academic Outreach
- Other Federal/State Govt Outreach
- Technology & Prize Challenge Engagements
- Off-site engagements & knowledge sharing
- Rapid Proof of Concept/Prototyping
- Experimentation/Demonstration Events
- Tech Talks & Webinars
- Workforce Engagement

## Technology Accelerator

Rapidly Connecting Sailors & Marines to the Technology

- User "In the Loop" Experimentation
- Events – ANTX, X-a-thons, Prize Challenges
- Funding – NISE, RDER, POR, SBIR, APFIT
- Contracting – IWRP2, CSO, (FAR & Non-FAR)
- Transition Partner – PEO/PMW

## Academia/UARCS (21 EPAs)

Leveraging Relationships

- Public & Private Universities & Colleges
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Academic Supporting Non-Profits
- UMD ARLIS

## Outreach Activities

- Local events and symposiums
- Site Visits and Career Days
- Strategic and Tactical Engagements
- Training Webinars
- Prize Challenges
- Demonstration & Experimentation events
- Tech Talks

## National Labs, State Gov & Industry

- Building on NAVWAR industry partnerships
  - CDCA
  - CSRA
- DOE SRS/SRNL and ORNL
- New State and local Partnerships
- NAVWAR-Joint DoD partnerships
- Other Federal Lab partnerships



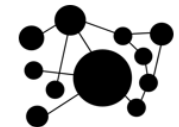
Accessible space –  
Leveraging available  
industry, academia, or NIWC  
co-use spaces



Collaboration with naval  
technologists and facilities  
(engineering process and  
standards)



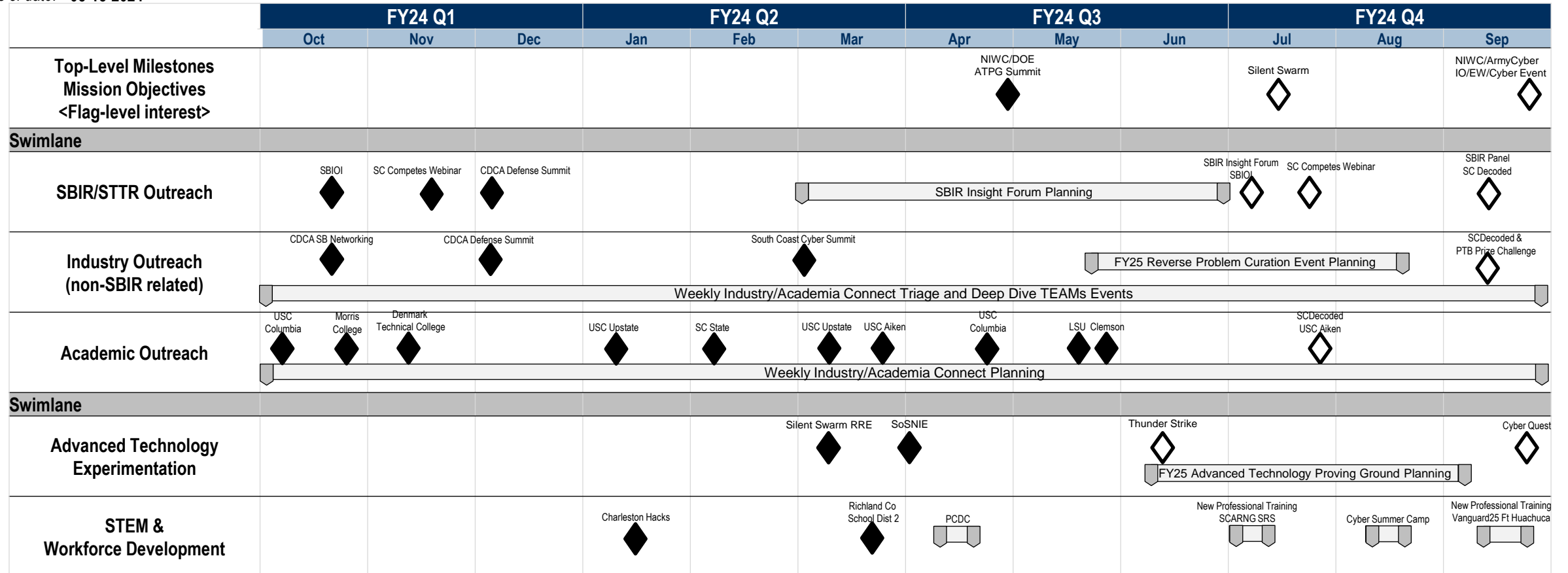
Connect to programs for  
requirements, funding paths  
and user feedback



Improved collaboration &  
partnerships with academia, small  
business, startups, venture  
capital, non-profits and state/local  
government organizations

# Palmetto Tech Bridge – Getting After It!

As of date: 05-15-2024



## ACRONYMS

CDCA Charleston Defense Contractor's Association  
USC University of South Carolina  
RRE Risk Reduction Event  
SoSNIE System of Systems Naval Integration Experiment  
SBIOI Strategic Business Innovation Outreach Initiative

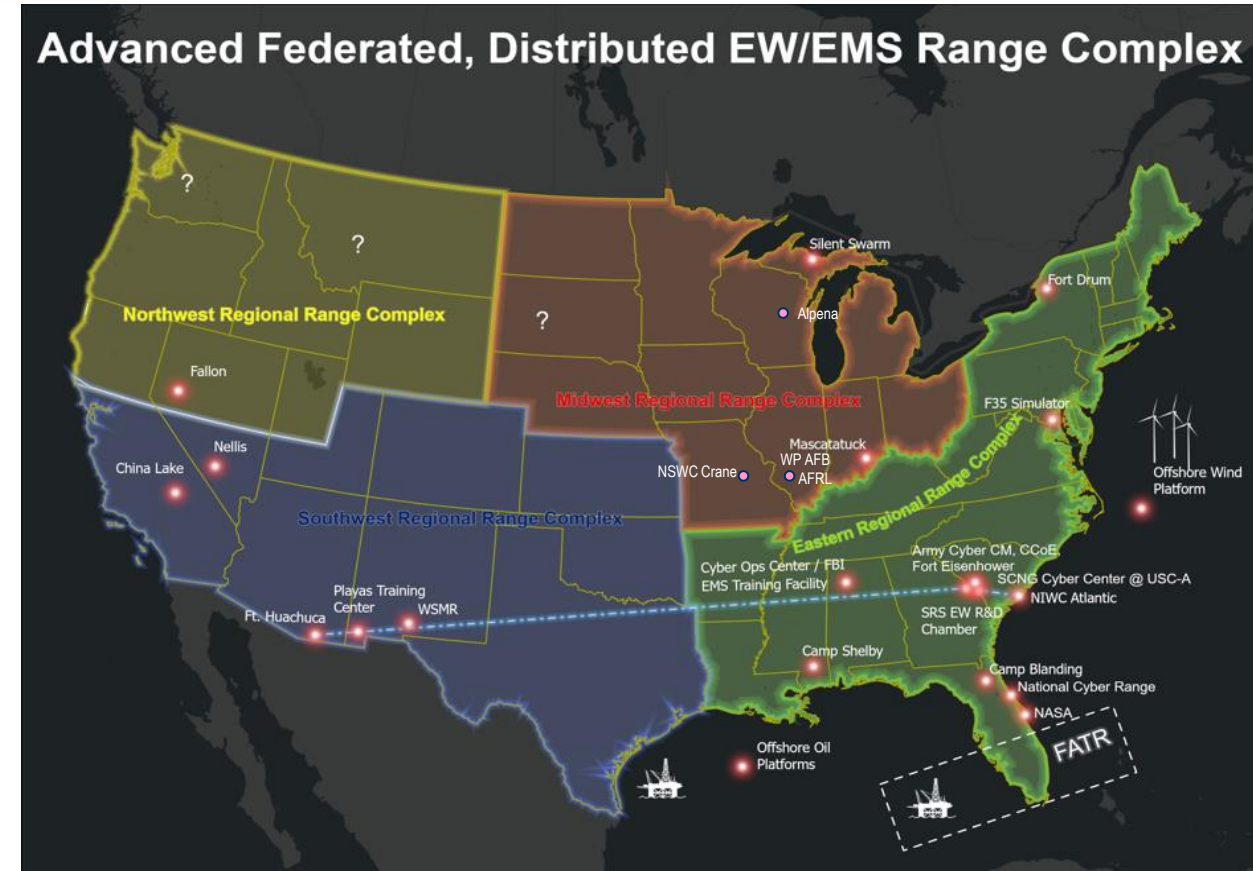
PCDC Palmetto Cyber Defense Challenge  
LSU Louisiana State University  
SCARNG South Carolina Army National Guard  
SRS Dept of Energy Savannah River Site

## LEGEND

Task Entry/Exit/Milestones  
Task  
Milestone / Anchor  
Delivery / Due Date

# Notional Distributed Advanced Non-Kinetic Range Complex

- ▼ Consists of “regions” of adaptive advanced threat interconnected ranges
- ▼ Creates technology ecosystems with regional state, other federal, defense and non-traditional commercial industry, non-profits and academia
- ▼ Proving grounds for training and early prototype demonstration and experimentation accelerating development of innovative technologies and delivery of novel capabilities to the warfighter with active warfighter participation and feedback
- ▼ Informs Dept of Defense and National Security technology roadmaps
- ▼ Informed by the intelligence community (IC)
- ▼ Combines Service Training and Technology Experimentation



**Experimentation environments create opportunity for training. Training environments create opportunity for experimentation.**  
Increasing “reps and sets” for both training and experimentation will promote innovation and accelerate technology transition to warfighting capability.

# Prize Challenges 10 U.S. Code § 4025

## NAVWAR Announces Project Overmatch Prize Challenge; Offers \$100,000 in Total Cash Prizes



## The AMERICA Competes Act defines GOALS for Federal Prize Challenge





- Find and highlight innovative ideas
- Solve a specific problem
- Advance scientific research
- Develop technology
- Inform and educate the public
- Engage new people and communities
- Build capacity
- Stimulate a market
- Other

Design thinking workshops, crowdsourcing, collaboration showcase events and innovative contracting pathways to cast a wide net for industry and academic innovators to apply their latest technologies, processes and solutions to government problems and accelerate the path from idea to deployed solution.



# Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT)

## Does my program qualify for APFIT funding?

-  RDT&E complete and DoD is interested in procuring
-  Small business or non-traditional defense contractor
-  \$10M-\$50M could be used to accelerate procurement
-  Project is endorsed by an APFIT-designated Submitting Organization

## APFIT FUNDING TIMELINE

Selection process is conducted once per year.

### APFIT Selection Process

1. Submitting organizations collect projects internally
2. Submitting organizations prioritize projects and send top selections to OUSD(R&E)
3. OUSD(R&E) conducts a review with services and the Joint Staff
4. Final selections are announced

Reach out to the APFIT team for current year deadlines: [osd.apfit@mail.mil](mailto:osd.apfit@mail.mil)

## Dept. of Navy (DON) SBIR/STTR

The DON SBIR/STTR programs provide opportunities for domestic small businesses and start-ups to deliver solutions to meet naval needs through Federal Research/Research and Development (R/R&D).

These competitive, three phase, awards-based programs advance innovations with an aim toward transitioning the resulting technologies to the Force/Fleet and commercialization in private markets.



**DON:**

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# Is there a way for us to work together?

YES.....Build a Bridge (Partnership)!

Questions?

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