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Washington, D.C.

Defense TechConnect Report November 17-19, 2020

OVERVIEW

G2G participated in the annual Defense TechConnect Conference on November 17-19, that was entirely online for the first time due to the pandemic. Defense TechConnect brings together defense, private industry, federal agency, and academic leadership to accelerate state-of-the-art technology solutions for the warfighter and national security. This year the conference was combined with the TechConnect Business Summit, SBIR/STTR Virtual Innovation Conference, Operation Energy and Logistics Conference, and the 5GX Conference, which allowed participants to access more experts, information, and opportunities. The addition of the other conferences added briefing sessions and one-on-one meeting opportunities with SBIR/STTR agency experts and energy and logistics experts.

KEY CONNECTIONS

During the conference, G2G connected with a number of key individuals from DoD and other federal agencies. Some of these connections include:

- Brigadier General Michael Talley, Commanding General, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC)
- Barry Datlof, Chief, Business Development and Commercialization for the Medical Technology Transfer Office, USAMRDC
- Stephanie Fertig, Director, Small Business Programs, NIH/HHS
- Chris Sasiela, Regulatory Specialist, SBIR-STTR
- Dr. Vladimir Popov, Director of the Partnership Development Office, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
- Victoria Brun, Partnership Project Manager, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
- Dr. Maggie Scully, Sr. Strategic Business Development Analyst, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
- Honorable James "Hondo" Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development & Acquisition
- Amy Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy and Small Business, Director, Office of Small Business Programs
- Glenn Weaver, Army Small Business Technology Transfer
- Paula Luu, Small Business Programs Office, DARPA

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **The DoD awards over \$1.8B each year in SBIR/STTR funding.** Their program goals include: stimulating technological innovation to maintain technological superiority and military readiness, increase private sector commercialization of federal R&D, stimulate a



partnership of ideas and technologies between innovative small business and research institutions.

- **The next DoD-wide BAA will be pre-released on 12/8/20, then released on 1/14/21, and applications will be due on 2/18/21.**
- **Each branch of the DoD has their own SBIR/STTR programs with different command priorities and gaps, topics of interest, funding, and deadlines. It is important for companies to familiarize themselves with these various opportunities for a fit within DoD for R&D funding.**
- USAMDRC among other DoD directorates look for innovative solutions that address military medical and technological gaps that can also **serve a dual purpose within the military and civilian populations.**
- The average soldier gets less than six hours of sleep a night. USAMRDC is working on **near and far term solutions for sleep** as well as **sensors and wearables.**
- USAMRDC is prioritizing identifying infectious disease-related diagnostics, to catch abnormal vital signs and infection indications early, and minimize spread of disease amongst the warfighter population.
- **Army Combat Capabilities Development Command** seeks innovative solutions supporting modernization priorities including: soldier lethality, next generation combat vehicles, long-range precision fires, future vertical lift, air and missile defense, and command control networks.
- **Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)** describes how the U.S. Army, as part of the joint force (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines), can counter and defeat near-peer adversaries capable of contesting the U.S. in all domains (air, land, maritime, space, and cyberspace) in both competition and armed conflict. They are aiming for the following modernization efforts to achieve full MDO capability:
 - Waypoint Force 2028 – modernization efforts across the Army to transform the force to be capable of operating effectively in MDO by 2028.
 - Aimpoint Force 2035 – provides the means to build Army modernization and force structure to achieve full MDO capability by 2035.
- **U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) Directorate of Science & Technology's (S&T)** capability focus areas include: Biotechnologies/Human Interface, Network & Data Management, Next Gen Effects/Precision Strike, Next Gen Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR)/Tactically Relevant Situational Awareness(SA), Hyper-Enabled Operator, Next Gen Mobility and provides the following opportunities for innovative companies to engage:
 - Three SBIR/STTR Topics Calls per year – April, August, December
 - SOF Futures Innovation Foundry Events – 2-3 events per fiscal year
 - 5-year BAA – periodically updated with Areas of Interest
 - Tech Scouting Tool – supports evaluation, assessment, scoring of submitted technologies and sharing of results
- **Innovative bio- and life-science companies in underserved states can find funding and resources in the following regions at the “hub” links listed below:**
 - Western Region (MT, AK, NV, NM, WY, ID) – [ASCEND](#)
 - Central Region (ND, SD, NE, KS, OK) – [SHARP](#)
 - Northeast Region (DE, ME, NH, RI, VT) – [DRIVEN](#)
 - Southeast Region (KY, WV, SC, AR, MS, LA, PR) – [XLerator Network](#)

CONCLUSION

Defense TechConnect reaffirmed the military's commitment to funding transformational innovations and solutions to enhance and protect the warfighter and our national security. With

the incoming Biden-Harris administration and new Secretary of Defense, we expect some changes to where funding is directed and how programs will function as far as prioritization. However, the SBIR/STTR program will remain in the same form. We understand the Biden Transition team is finalizing the pick for Secretary of Defense and wants to focus more dollars on R&D next year. As this takes shape, some of the insights gained from Defense Tech Connect will need to be updated. G2G continues to monitor all of these developments very closely.