

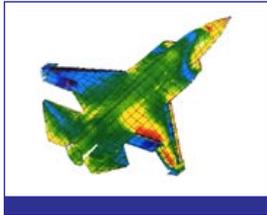


Air Force Research Laboratory | AFRL

Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Aerospace Force

Success Story

AIR FORCE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (IR&D) BRINGS ARNOLD ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT CENTER (AEDC) AND INDUSTRY TOGETHER



As a result of the AEDC/McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) connection, AEDC acquired the program and source code for Green Boot, a pressure sensitive paint software developed by McDonnell Douglas under IR&D and NASA funding. AEDC estimates that their purchase immediately saves them a minimum of \$150,000, which represents two full time computer programmer years for software development. This one technology information connection, created by Laboratory IR&D technology matching experts, resulted in an immediate savings for the government and will ultimately lead to millions of dollars in test savings annually with faster aircraft development cycle time.

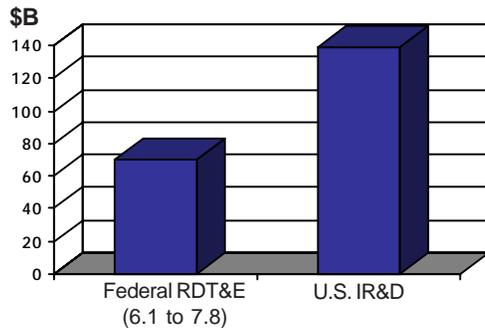
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IR&D Leveraging Potential



- Total U.S. Industry IR&D approaching \$140B (\$2.5B in aerospace only) in FY98.
- Almost twice the size of the entire Federal Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) enterprise of \$73.8 Billion in basic research (6.1) through manufacturing (7.8).

Sources of Data: RAND RaDiUS database & Industrial Research Institute, Inc.



Air Force
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Air Force Independent Research and Development

IR&D

Your link in
the search for
technologies.



Program
Office

Industry Independent Research & Development (IR&D)

WHAT IS IR&D?

- IR&D is a DoD term for company or corporate funded research & development (R&D). Each company plans, initiates, and controls IR&D projects, spanning all economic and technical areas necessary in the development of a product(s) or service(s).
- Closely tied to business needs, these IR&D projects range from basic research to development. Company IR&D expenditures are influenced by competition.
- Industry submits their IR&D project descriptions to the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) annually. These descriptions are vigorously protected as proprietary information.
- IR&D data is used to facilitate government strategic planning and the leveraging of resources.

Air Force IR&D Program Office

Located at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), the Air Force IR&D Program Office helps communicate the AF's technology requirements to industry, academia, and other government agencies and helps them focus future R&D efforts on AF infrastructure, weapon system and other needs. The AF IR&D Program Office leverages existing commercial and government technologies to:

- Find technology relevant to AF needs;
- Reduce system development time;
- Lower system life cycle costs;
- Enhance mission performance; and
- Accelerate response to customer requests.

The Process

COMMUNICATE, SEARCH AND LINK!

The AF IR&D Program Office *communicates*:

1) with government customers to identify technology needs, requirements and point of contact (POC) information. 2) with all customers to articulate technical needs, requirements, POC information and potential solutions.

The Air Force IR&D technical experts *search* the DTIC IR&D database, and other government and commercial databases, to harvest project information to assist government and industry decision-making. This is called data mining. Improvements in search capability are continually sought through advanced data mining techniques and expanded data sources.

Once the requirements are matched to potential solutions, a *link* between customers and technology developers in government, industry and/or academia can be established.

"I would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance provided through your IR&D Group. The search results achieved by your group using the IR&D, RaDiUS, TechConnect, and SBIR databases helped us quickly assess efforts currently underway in industry and the government."

*Customer at Headquarters Electronic Systems Center,
Hanscom AFB*

Who are the Customers? How do they Benefit?

CUSTOMERS:

- Industry
- Government Agencies
- Academia

BENEFITS:

Interaction with the AF IR&D Program Office can help you:

- **Leverage Resources.** Reduce duplication of effort and promote two-way communication providing a mutual focus on specific R&D activities.
- **Solve Infrastructure Needs.** Save billions of dollars that can be used to fund government unfunded requirements.
- **Solve Weapon System/Other Needs.** Facilitate technology transition/transfer.
- **Advance Data Mining Capabilities.** Develop advanced methods for exploiting R&D information in databases.
- **Identify Business Opportunities.** Find available markets for technological capabilities. Eliminate barriers between government and industry.
- **Help Customers Find Partners.** Facilitate joint partnerships.