



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2005

DARPA CONTRACTORS, STAFF RECEIVE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMANCE

Dr. Anthony J. Tether, director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), announced the winners of the 2005 DARPA Awards for Excellence at DARPA Tech 2005, DARPA's 24th Systems and Technology Symposium, in Anaheim, Calif., last night.

Tether awarded the 2005 Director's Award for Outstanding Personal Accomplishment to Dr. Robert Hummel, program manager in DARPA's Information Exploitation Office. Hummel was honored for developing imagery exploitation technologies that have transformed our nation's capabilities to detect elusive adversaries. His efforts led to several significant technical breakthroughs in automatic target recognition, three-dimensional data exploitation, and improvised explosive device detection. He directed the rapid transition of DARPA-developed imagery exploitation capabilities to operational users. In presenting the award, Tether explained, "Bob Hummel is powered by ideas. He is energized – and energizes others – in the pursuit of ideas to ensure that U.S. forces have the world's best warfighting capabilities."

DARPA presented two Awards for Sustained Excellence by a Performer. AeroVironment Inc., Monrovia, Calif., received the Award for Sustained Excellence by a Performer for developing the Wasp micro air vehicle. With an innovative design that uses a main battery as the wing structure, the small vehicle is able to provide real-time images and data to warfighters. "The vehicle set an endurance record for micro air vehicles that is three times longer than any comparably equipped and sized air vehicle, demonstrating the significant utility of these vehicles in military operations," said Tether.

The Award for Sustained Excellence by a Performer was also presented to the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) Front-Line Team – ISX Corp. (Camarillo, Calif.), Global InfoTek Inc. (Reston, Va.), Oculus Info Inc. (Toronto, Ontario), SYS Technologies Inc. (San Diego, Calif.), and General Dynamics C4 Systems Viz (Pittsburgh, Pa.). CPOF gives U.S. forces an advanced command and control technology to enable distributed operations. CPOF was first deployed two years ago to U.S. Army units in Iraq. "The CPOF team is a model of how experts from diverse companies and organizations can collaborate to create a highly efficient and effective program," explained Tether. As a result of CPOF's success in Iraq, the U.S. Army has decided to equip all units with CPOF in the coming years.

(more)

DARPA also presented two Awards for Significant Technical Achievement. The first winner, BBN Technologies, Boston, Mass., was honored for the development of the Boomerang system, an acoustic shot-detection system providing force protection to U.S. units serving in Iraq. “BBN met demanding development and deployment deadlines in this program,” noted Tether. “They completed a prototype of the Boomerang system 30 days after contract award, and delivered 50 systems to U.S. Marine Corps units deploying to Iraq within 60 days of contract award, a remarkable achievement.”

The second winner of the Award for Significant Technical Achievement was the University of California Information Sciences Institute’s Center for Advanced Research in Technology for Education, Marina del Rey, Calif., for the development of the Tactical Language Training System. The system incorporates language skills and nonverbal gestures such as cultural norms of etiquette to help U.S. forces develop the skills necessary to communicate effectively with the local populace. “The U.S. Army and Marine Corps adopted this system and are using it today to prepare troops for duty in Iraq,” said Tether. “I can best summarize the system’s success by quoting one soldier’s words: ‘I learned more in one day with this than I learned in my whole tour in Iraq.’”

DARPA presented the Award for Small Business Innovation Research to Dot Metrics Technologies Corp., Charlotte, N.C., for demonstrating a new method of introducing deep-green luminescent nanostructures into semiconductor materials for light emitting diodes. Dot Metrics achieved this breakthrough via a proprietary process sequence that produces a higher efficiency electroluminescent output, tunable to the deep-green portion of the visible spectrum. “The technology achieved by Dot Metrics will directly translate into solid-state lighting devices that are more weight- and power-efficient,” explained Tether. “The technology will be part of a DARPA program to install innovative lighting systems on U.S. Navy vessels.”

Michael Blackstone, a contracts specialist in DARPA’s Contracts Management Office, received the DARPA Award for Sustained Excellence by a Government Agent for his support to the CPOF program and program managers in DARPA’s Information Exploitation Office. Blackstone reorganized the CPOF performers and contracts into a single team with a prime contractor and key subcontractors to better support important mission requirements. “He completed the many contracts in record time, thus making sure the program performers had the funds they needed to deliver important new capabilities to U.S. Army units deployed in Iraq,” Tether noted.

The full list of nominees for all award categories is available online at <http://www.darpa.mil/darpatech2005/05awards.htm>.

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