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Wrap Up

Talk about challenging problems!

But it's just the tip of the iceberg.

There wasn't time today to cover everything going on in IXO. Had we been able to do it all, we would have shown you samples of our ongoing projects in precision tracking, battle management, urban force multipliers, collaborative robotics, weapons effectiveness assessment, and advanced logistics technology.

You will learn a lot more about our office, our programs and our plans for the future by visiting our booth and talking with our program managers.

IXO is a systems office. Our goal is develop militarily useful systems by applying new scientific results and newly emerging technologies to create better and more effective warfighting capabilities. We're looking for ideas and system concepts that will change the way we fight, that may have been impossible or too impractical to implement until now. An important goal for most IXO programs is to develop systems that can be transitioned to operational military users within 3 to 5 years. But we also want to advance the state of the art in the basic technologies that enable these new system-level solutions.

In many cases, the enabling technologies are themselves newly developed and not ready for widespread application. By developing systems that are enabled by newly emergent concepts and capabilities, we hope to accelerate the rate at which the technologies themselves mature. And this will hasten the day when we can field major new warfighting capabilities.

We're interested in new ideas for advancing the state of the art and creating new, transformational

systems in every one of our applications areas, and we're appealing to you—the core of our nation's technological strength—to join us in this mission.

Here's how to do it: First, think hard about new ways of exploiting information technology to lift the fog of war, gain indepth understanding of the enemy, or accelerate the pace of battle. If you come up with what seems to be an exciting new concept that will significantly improve our warfighting ability, ask yourself why it hasn't already been implemented. One possibility, of course, is that there hasn't been enough money in the DoD budget to pursue it in lieu of other, more pressing, priorities.

If that's the only reason, the idea won't pass muster at DARPA. On the other hand, if the reason it hasn't been done before is because of a previously insurmountable technological barrier that you believe can now be overcome because of a new scientific result or research development, that's something we're eager to hear about.

If your idea passes this simple test, talk to us about it at DARPA Tech or send us a very brief white paper that summarizes its potential value to the warfighting community and describes the technical innovation that makes it possible. If we like the idea, we'll work with you to help shape it into a new IXO program initiative. In fact, we might want to explore whether you can get the project going by joining us as a DARPA program manager. Serving as a DARPA PM can be one of the most intense and exciting chapters in an engineering or scientific career. Almost every former DARPA program manager agrees that no job compares with it and having been a DARPA PM resulted in future career options that would otherwise never have

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materialized. And with good reason: DARPA provides opportunities for professional initiative and growth found nowhere else.

We've recently updated and reissued our office-wide broad agency announcement. It provides a convenient contracting mechanism for new initiatives across the entire range of IXO's technological and systems-level interests.

Many of IXO's program managers are here at DARPA Tech this week, and any one of them will be happy to discuss our programs with you and to explore ways that you can become involved in our new office initiatives—as contractors, military partners, or possibly as DARPA program managers.