



WORKING WITH DARPA

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THE HISTORY OF DARPA

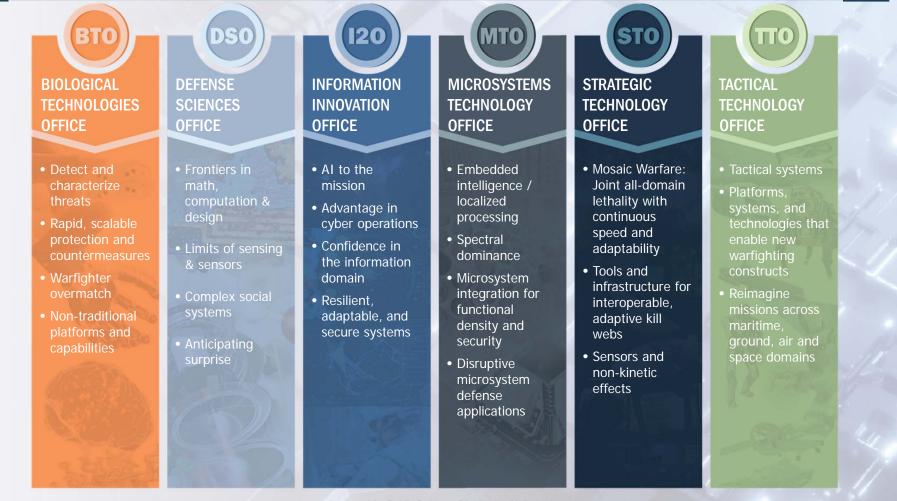




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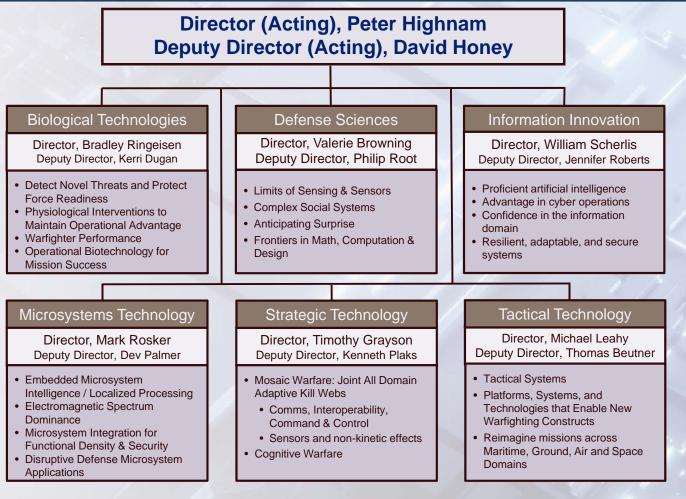
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DARPA'S MISSION



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DARPA'S TECHNICAL OFFICES



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PREVENT AND IMPOSE TECHNOLOGICAL SURPRISE



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PEOPLE

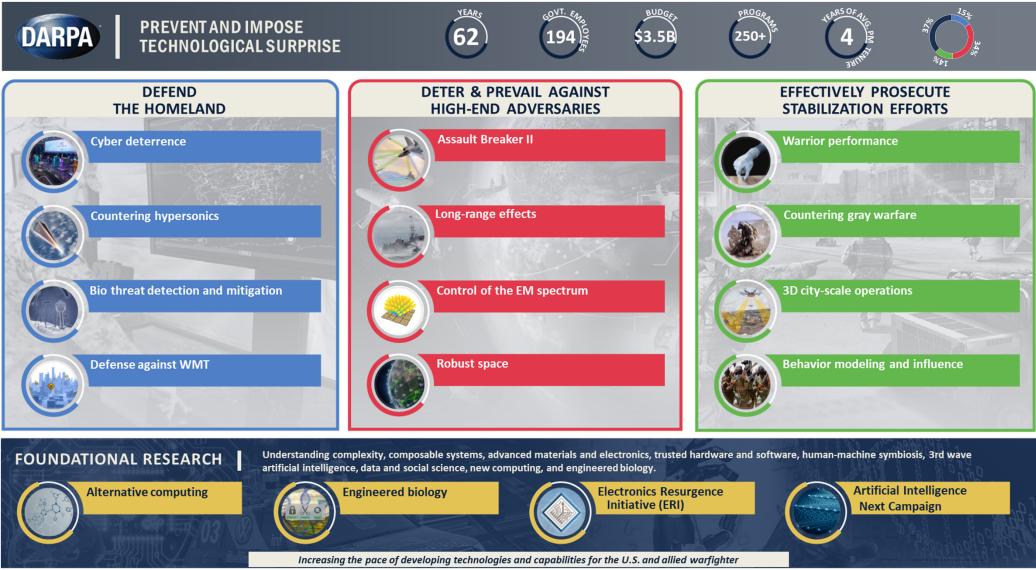
- Exceptional technologists
- Limited tenure
- Autonomy

PROCESSES

- No in-house labs
- Metrics-based
 - Programs have end-dates

CULTURE

- Drive for off-scale impact
- Risk tolerant
- Honor in public service



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MTO MICROSYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

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MTO's core mission is the development of high-performance, intelligent microsystems and next-generation components to enable dominance in national security C4ISR, EW, and DE applications

The effectiveness and survivability of these systems depends critically on microsystems

C4ISR: Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

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Unclassified

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Unclassified

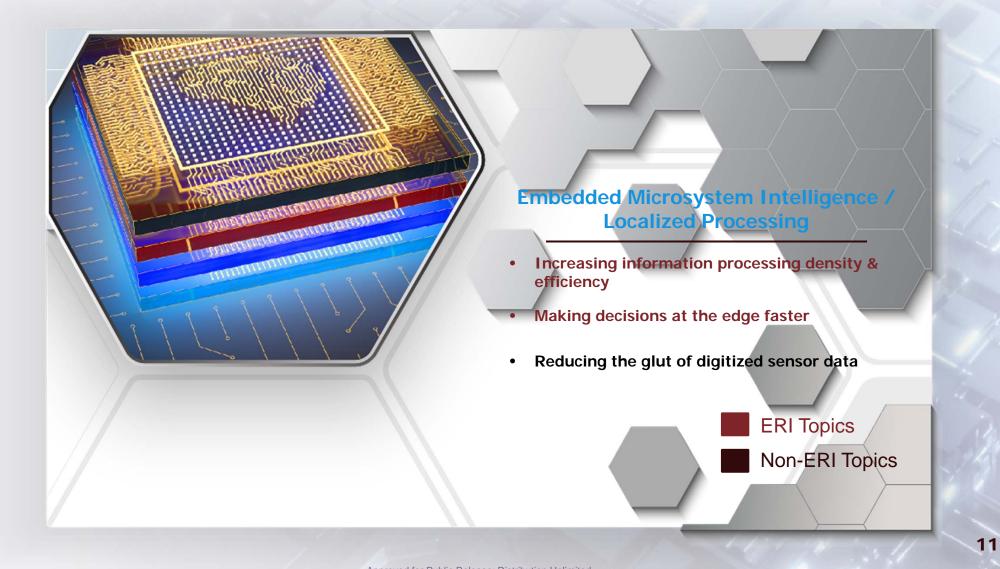


Embedded Microsystem Intelligence / Localized Processing

Next Gen Front-End Technologies for Electromagnetic Spectrum Dominance

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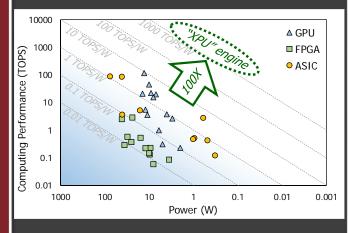


EMBEDDED MICROSYSTEM INTELLIGENCE / LOCALIZED PROCESSING: KEY CHALLENGES



Increasing information processing density & efficiency

Problem: Current processors cannot be scaled to DoD needs



Potential Approaches

- Low temperature computing
- New computing materials
- New computing algorithms

Making decisions at the edge faster

Problem: Conventional algorithms and associated platforms not sufficiently fast for emerging threats

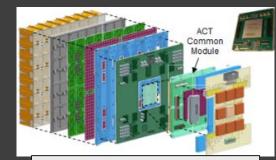


Potential Approaches

• Artificial intelligence / machine learning for decision making at the edge

Reducing the glut of digitized sensor data

Problem: Volume of data captured in static sensor architectures overwhelms processing capability



ACT Signal Processing Challenge: 51.2 GSPS/element * 10 bit/Sample * 2 Pol * 512 elements = **524 Tbps**

Potential Approaches

- New reconfigurable architectures with more on-chip functionality
- Scalable algorithms

Next Gen Front-End Technologies for Electromagnetic Spectrum Dominance

- Reducing SWaP-C of front-end elements
- Increasing tactical range
- Enabling robust operation in congested spectrum

ERI TopicsNon-ERI Topics

NEXT GEN FRONT-END TECHNOLOGIES FOR EM SPECTRUM DOMINANCE: KEY CHALLENGES



Reducing SWaP-C of front-end elements

Problem: Bulky electronics and optics undermine ability to miniaturize sensors and systems



Potential Approaches

- Wafer-scale electronics and optics
- Chip-scale sensors
- Advances in quantum sensors

Increasing tactical range

Problem: Range of EW, DE, and C4ISR is limited by inherent properties of current electronic materials and transmitter efficiency



Potential Approaches

- Emerging electronic materials
- New PA architectures / circuit design techniques

Enabling robust operation in congested spectrum

Problem: RF components are insufficiently adaptable or robust to operate in increasingly congested spectrum

UNITED			
STATES FREQUENCY			
ALLOCATIONS THE RADIO SPECTRUM			
		a ch-1	Call Color
	A PARKET		

SpectrumIN.com

Potential Approaches

- New materials / devices integrated directly onto RF MMICs
- Real-time adaptive technologies for navigating crowded RF environments

Microsystem Integration For Functional Density & Security

- Overcoming the inherent throughput limits of 2D electronics
- Mitigating the skyrocketing costs of electronics design
- Overcoming security threats across the entire hardware lifecycle

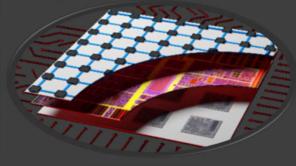
ERI Topics Non-ERI Topics

MICROSYSTEM INTEGRATION FOR FUNCTIONAL DENSITY & SECURITY: KEY CHALLENGES



Overcoming the inherent throughput limits of 2D electronics

Problem: 2D computing with traditional interconnects between processor and memory limits throughput and drives energy consumption

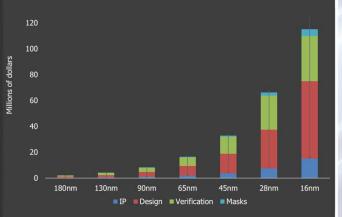


Potential Approaches

- 3-dimensional electronics
- Integration of photonics with optics
- New materials *e.g.*, nanotubes
- Heterogeneous electronics with Si-like back-end processing

Mitigating the skyrocketing costs of electronics design

Problem: Increasingly complex circuit architectures are making design costs prohibitive for commercial industry and DoD



Potential Approaches

- Design tools and hardware with machine learning capability
- Trusted open source tools
- Modular circuit design with relevant standards and interconnects

Overcoming security threats across the entire hardware lifecycle

Problem: Persistent hardware threats limit the ability to access and utilize advanced electronics technology



Potential Approaches

- EDA based technologies
- Inspection based technologies
- Supply chain based technologies

Disruptive Defense Microsystem Applications

- Revolutionizing communications (5G and beyond)
- Reducing latency in EW
- Generating / directing high power radiation

ERI Topics

Non-ERI Topics

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• Delivering accurate position and timing without GPS

DISRUPTIVE DEFENSE MICROSYSTEMS APPLICATIONS: KEY CHALLENGES



Revolutionizing communications (5G and beyond)

Problem: Ensuring network availability and security



Potential Approaches

- Digital arrays
- Low power element-level beamforming
- Advanced techniques for secure comms

Reducing latency in EW

Problem: Adaptive threats challenge ability to detect and counter



Potential Approaches

- Neural networks for RF signal recognition
- Embedded machine learning for cognitive EW systems

Generating / directing high power radiation

Problem: Advanced threats require high power countermeasures



Potential Approaches

- Ultra-efficient, high power laser diodes
- Compact, high power laser arrays
- High power microwave systems

Delivering accurate position and timing w/o GPS

Problem: Low SWaP-C solutions required for GPS-denied environments



Potential Approaches

- Modern atomic physics for low SWaP clocks
- Advanced MEMS for inertial guidance
- Integrated photonic chips for clocks/gyros

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HOW TO ENGAGE WITH US

REMEMBER THE "P" IN OUR NAME

DEFENSE Advanced Research Projects Agency

"A **project** consists of a concrete and organized effort motivated by a perceived opportunity when facing a **problem**..."

What **problem** are you trying to solve?

THE HEILMEIER CATECHISM

We recommend that DoD adopt such a structured methodology for its decision making. Whether or not the figure of merit or the criteria are exactly adopted is not the point. What is important is that decision makers at all levels should ask the questions which are summarized in the investment strategy catechism:

- What are we trying to do?
- How is it done today and what are the limitations of current practice?
- What is new in my approach and why do I think I can be successful?
- Assuming success, what difference will it make to the user or in a mission area context?
- How long will it take; how much will it cost; what are the "midterm" and "final" exams?

The answers to these questions should be of great value in the resource allocation process.

Sincerely

Source: 1981 Defense Science Board Summer Study

FUNDING VEHICLES AT DARPA

Kind	Typical Award (\$M)	Typical Duration (Months)	How	Purpose	Where to Begin	
Program	0.5 to >50	48	BAA ¹	To solve a specific national security problem		
Seedling	0.2 to 1	6-12	"Office- wide" BAA ²	To provide key information to allow a PM to define a Program		
Microsystem Exploration (µE)	1	18	PA ³	To provide foundational work in an area of potential interest for a future Program	Directly engage a PM interested in this technical area	
SBIR/STTR	Phase 1: 0.225 Phase 2: 1-1.5	Phase 1: 10 Phase 2: 24-36	BAA ⁴	To stimulate technological innovation lead by small businesses and research institutions		
Young Faculty Award⁵	0.5	24	BAA ⁶	To develop the next gen of scientists and engineers and encourage focus on DoD and National Security issues		
 http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/office-wide-broad-agency-announcements https://beta.sam.gov/opp/765d3278dd11489c9ad662a414cc5400/view https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/for-small-businesses/participate-sbir-sttr-program Available to junior faculty positions in academia and equivalent positions at non-profit research institutions 						

⁶ https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/for-universities/young-faculty-award

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MICROSYSTEM EXPLORATION (µE)

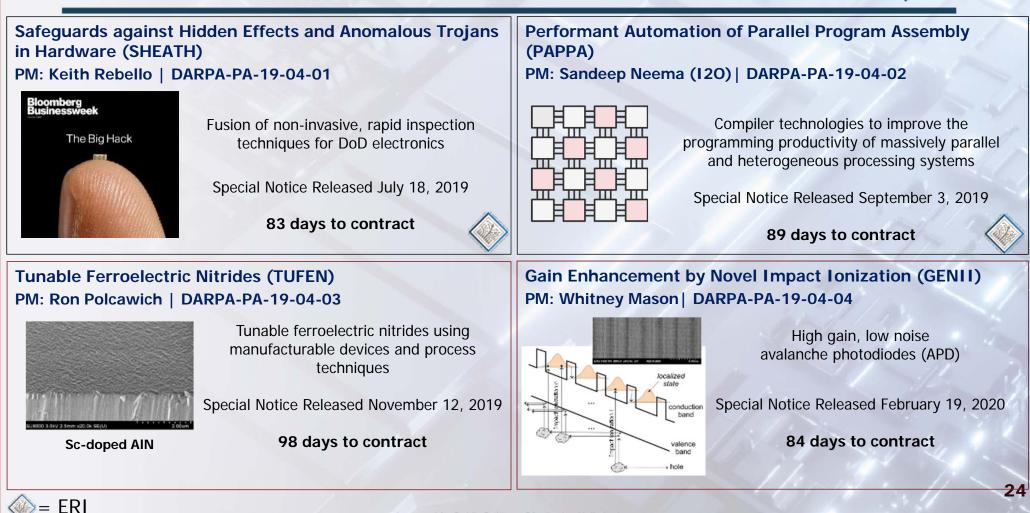


MTO has introduced a new class of programs: "Microsystems Exploration (µE)" Continuously open Program Announcement: DARPA-PA-19-04

> From Program Announcement to contract in 90 days Up to \$1M over 2 phases (including cost share) Streamlined proposal templates

Microsystems Exploration will accelerate microelectronics innovation

MICROSYSTEM EXPLORATION (µE) TOPICS



TALK TO A PROGRAM MANAGER



- Start with: <u>www.darpa.mil</u>
- Identify (if you can) the right PM
- Then, contact them (web page, email, visit)
- Available for technical discussions



Some Advice

- PMs are motivated by finding new and highly disruptive problems that will be the basis of new programs
- Generally, you should discuss ideas that might lead to new programs, not present your approaches for ongoing programs
- PMs will be thinking about the Heilmeier catechism... so you should, too
- PMs are most receptive when you do their homework for them
- Listen to them!

https://www.businessinsider.com/ best-way-to-increase-mental-strength-2014-10

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EDA/Security



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Whitney Mason IR Imaging



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MEMS/High T materials

Ron Polcawich Microrobotics/PNT



Keith Rebello Hardware security



Integration





Jason Woo CMOS / Processing



Tim Hancock **RF** Electronics



PMs from Other Offices with MTO Programs



