

Technology Transition Initiative

Background:

The timely transition of advanced technologies from AFRL to application in acquisition programs has historically been a major contributor to the Air Forces' superior warfighting capability. The goals of Evolutionary Acquisition/Spiral Development challenge us to build on those successes and look for ways to accelerate the introduction of technology-based advanced capabilities into acquisition programs. For accelerated technology transition to be smooth and effective, a strong partnership between AFRL, the warfighter, the acquisition community and our industry counterparts must exist. This partnership requires new levels of collaboration, communication, investment strategies, program plans and program execution processes.

Policy:

AFRL will establish a broad-based initiative to focus and accelerate its technology efforts in support of priority warfighting capabilities. This initiative will include the following elements:

- A. AFRL will incorporate integrated capability-based investment strategy and program planning processes to ensure alignment of its R&D portfolio and products with capabilities needed by the AF acquisition and warfighting communities. These processes will review the re-alignment of funds as required. The resulting portfolio will be structured to achieve the optimum balance of:
 - Integrated capability-based, technology advancements across all AF sectors
 - Near, mid and far-term capability-based technology availability
 - Revolutionary/Evolutionary concepts and technologies
- B. AFRL's portfolio will be planned and executed in partnership with customers, will be executed with sound program management principles, and will incorporate systems engineering (SE) methods tailored to the nature of specific technology programs. SE will be used to achieve "best value" results, accounting for the critical considerations of customer requirements, exit criteria, technology assessment, risk, and schedule.
- C. AF warfighter and acquisition leaders, in conjunction with the Commander of AFRL, will annually identify priority acquisition programs to use as the framework against which to focus and accelerate the transition of selected AFRL technologies. The selection of specific AFRL technologies/expertise/support to be transitioned, including the specific tasks that must be completed prior to technology acceptance, will be defined by AFRL, the SPO and their industry prime contractor and jointly approved by the Commander of AFRL and the appropriate SPO Director. AFRL engineers will then work collaboratively with their SPO, industry and warfighter counterparts to successfully achieve the approved transition goals.
- D. Regular reviews will be conducted with AFRL's customers and stakeholders to ensure continued endorsement and advocacy, including the Applied Technology Councils, Program and Baseline Reviews, Technology Area Reviews and Assessments (TARA), Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), etc. Programs without advocacy will be realigned.
- E. AFRL will establish a regular strategic-level dialogue with AF acquisition organizations and their industry partners to communicate advanced capability needs, technology plans, the status of on-going efforts and joint investment/transition opportunities.
- F. The results of the above technology transition related activities will be reviewed annually with the Commander of AFRL, and senior acquisition and warfighter leaders.



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