

## Comparative Testing Office Announces Projects for Fiscal 2008

The Department of Defense announces the selection of new start projects being funded in fiscal 2008 under the Comparative Testing Office's (CTO) Defense Acquisition Challenge (DAC) and Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) programs.

The services and the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) nominated more than 85 projects for CTO funding consideration. Each proposed project was carefully reviewed by the services and the USSOCOM and within the Office of the Secretary of Defense to ensure the innovative, mature equipment or technology addressed valid warfighter needs. It was also reviewed to confirm that the U.S. military sponsor has a viable acquisition strategy to procure and field the equipment if it tests successfully and offers the best value.

The DAC and FCT programs support the warfighter by leveraging innovative, mature equipment and technologies from domestic and coalition industry to satisfy U.S. defense requirements. Performance measures include accelerating the acquisition process, reducing development costs, and providing opportunities for the introduction of innovative and cost-saving technologies into existing defense acquisition programs.

By staying focused on the capabilities required for the Global War on Terrorism, DAC and FCT enhance interoperability with our coalition partners, strengthen defense relationships, and serve as a catalyst for partnering between domestic and overseas defense industries.

The DAC program shows the enthusiasm of domestic industries, especially those that are not major defense contractors, to "challenge" current acquisition programs at the component, system, or sub-system level. The FCT program demonstrates the U.S. commitment to the "two-way street" in defense procurement and the willingness of our allies and coalition partners to share their technology and to compete in the U.S. defense market.

Of the 29 new-start FCT and DAC projects for fiscal 2008, seven are sponsored by the Army, 10 by the Navy and Marine Corps, seven by the Air Force, and five by the U.S. Special Operations Command. A list of these new projects is attached. Additional information on how to participate in the DAC and FCT programs is available on the CTO Web site at: <http://www.acq.osd.mil/cto/> .

A brief description of each project is available at:  
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/d20071213Maka.pdf>.

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