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U.S. Army Announces New Program to Support Small Business Innovation Research

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FORT BELVOIR, Va. --The U.S. Army announced today that it has entered into a potential four-year agreement with MILCOM Venture Partners of Winter Park, Fla. to support the new U.S. Army Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Commercialization Pilot Program (CPP).

Congress created the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program in 1983 to foster the involvement of U.S. based small businesses in federal research and development. The SBIR program seeks to increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from federal research and development, thereby increasing competition, productivity, and economic growth.

The new CPP is designed to increase SBIR technology transition and commercialization success. MILCOM Venture Partners will assist the government in identifying a focused set of ongoing SBIR research projects for inclusion in the CPP.

Each identified project will meet a high priority U.S. Army technology need and have a high probability of rapidly transitioning to operational Army units. Additionally, each project must have the potential for commercial use in the private sector. MILCOM Venture Partners will then provide the small business with expert advice, market research, and business plan development. They will also identify potential customers within and external to the U.S. Army, prepare detailed technology transition plans, and assist in securing additional investment in the projects from other government or private sector organizations to further the development, fielding, and potential commercialization of the specific technology. The U.S. Army has established a \$15 million investment fund targeted to enhance CPP SBIR projects with expanded research, development, test, and evaluation to accelerate transition and commercialization.

In 2007, the federal government will spend over \$2 billion through the SBIR program for research and development with U.S. small businesses. The U.S. Army SBIR program is managed by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

-30-