Federal Technology Symposium

Forging the Future: Strategic Innovation Pathways for National Defense

Speakers:

- **Lieutenant Colonel Ian Clowes**, Program Manager, AFWERX
- Nicole Fox, S&T Portfolio Manager, Contested Logistics & Sustainment, CATALYST Team Lead, Army Applied SBIR|STTR Program, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Research and Technology, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology
- James "JJ" Barry, Assistant Chief of the Mineral Commodity Section, US Geological Survey National Mineral Information Center (NMIC)
- Karen Krause-Bencal, Vice President, Federal Programs, Applied Research Institute

AFWERX

Overview

10 Sep 2025

AFWERX · SPACEWERX

MISSION

AFWERX accelerates agile and affordable capability transitions by teaming leaders in innovative technology with Airman and Guardian talent.

VISION

Forge an innovation ecosystem that delivers disruptive Air & Space capabilities.

MANTRA

Unleashing American Ingenuity

UNLEASHING AMERICAN INGENUITY

Historical Innovation

AFWERX SUCCESS STORY

AR/VR Training Tools
Specular Theory

Technology
Specular Theory has developed immersive AR/VR training tools that extend and enhance the availability of training for C-17, KC-46, C-130, KC-135, B-52, T-1, T-1AMP and T-6 aircrews.

> "We have recently cut 1 sortie from 3 different syllabi which will save the government $13.42M a year."
>
> - Col Patrick Schuldt
>
> Chief, MAF/SOF/PR Graduate Training Division, 19th Air Force

Operational Impact
Specular Theory's flagship products, MAT and EARL, enable aircrews to train outside of the sim and aircraft, not only reducing time and costs but producing higher quality graduates.

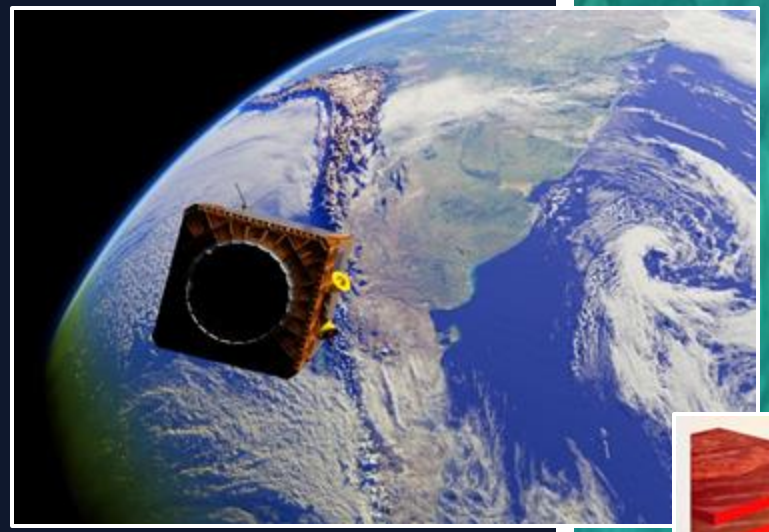
Fielding
Currently supporting mobility and bomber aircrew training at the FTUs and Wings across the USAF. Interest in expanding training to more aircraft.

Funding Organizations
AMC, AFLCMC/WNS, AFGSC, AETC

TOTAL FUNDING
$1.5M SBIR | **$12.5M** Phase III Gov't Funding

AFWERX SUCCESS STORY

Hyperspectral Imagery
Orbital Sidekick LLC

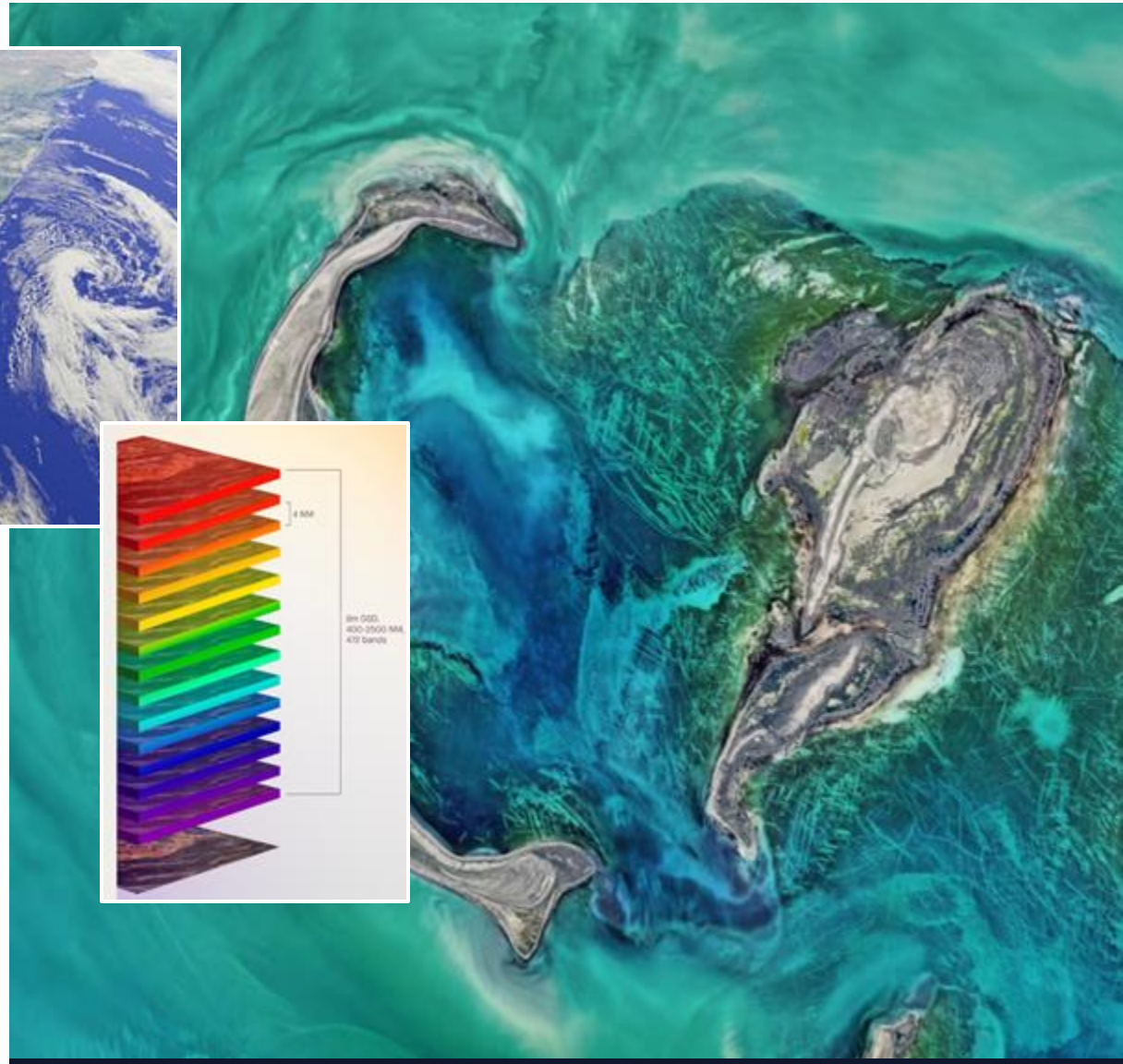


Technology

Orbital Sidekick (OSK) provides a low-cost, high-fidelity monitoring capability to defense and intelligence, as well as to energy infrastructure, with a major focus on the $10 Billion pipeline monitoring market.

Operational Impact

As of June 2023, OSK successfully launched its first three of six GHOSt(™) constellation satellites. OSK is working with multiple commercial partners, including the AFRL Space Vehicle Directorate, towards implementing a low-cost space-based hyperspectral imaging infrastructure with the ability to provide frequent revisit rates across the planet.



TOTAL FUNDING

2 Contracts | **$16.82M** Total Gov't Funding

AFWERX SUCCESS STORY

Viper Hot Refuel Kit
2021 Spark Tank Finalist

Technology

SPARK TANK 2021 Top 5 Finalist, VIPER Hot Refuel Kit, is a rapid refueling sled (kit) enabling “hot pit refueling," or faster aircraft refueling with one engine left on while the crew stays onboard. Two Airmen invented VIPER by configuring all existing AF-approved parts for a universal adapter that replaces the need to send fuel trucks to austere locations.

> “When you are working on solving a problem, keep asking “Why can’t we do this?” No one could tell us why not.”
>
> - Master Sgt Jason Yunker
> 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

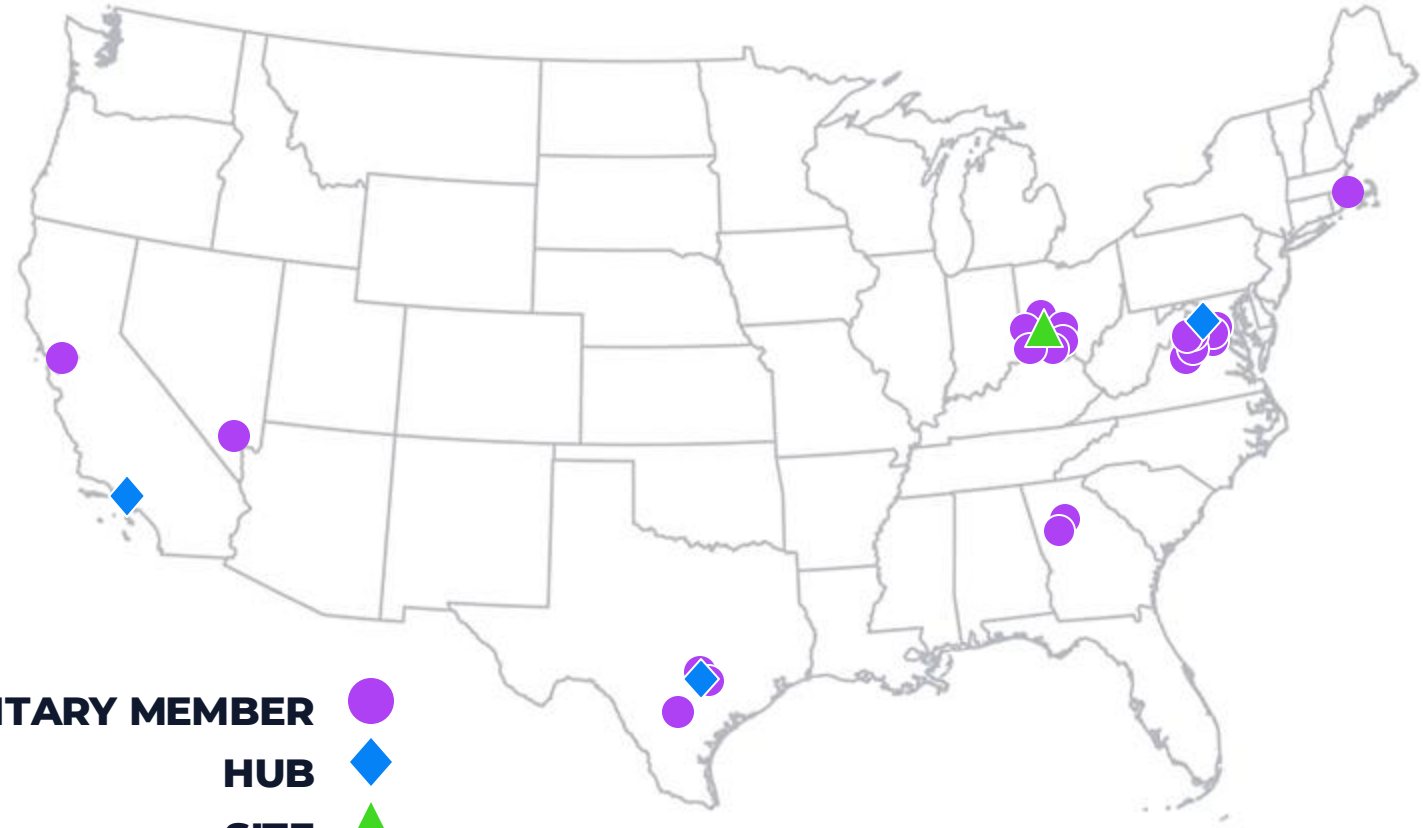
Operational Impact

VIPER Hot Refuel Kit supports agile combat deployment. As of July 2023, 60 kits have been deployed and this USAFE-AFAFRICA effort has saved $142M in cargo shipping costs.

TOTAL FUNDING

$1.2M in Air Force funding

AFWERX: WHERE WE ARE



Austin, TX
HUB

Dayton, OH
SITE

Los Angeles, CA
HUB

Washington DC
HUB

20 Geographically dispersed military members

DAF STRUCTURE

DAF

SAF/AQ

SecAF

SAF/SQ

MAJCOM/FieldCOM

AFMC

AFRL Centers

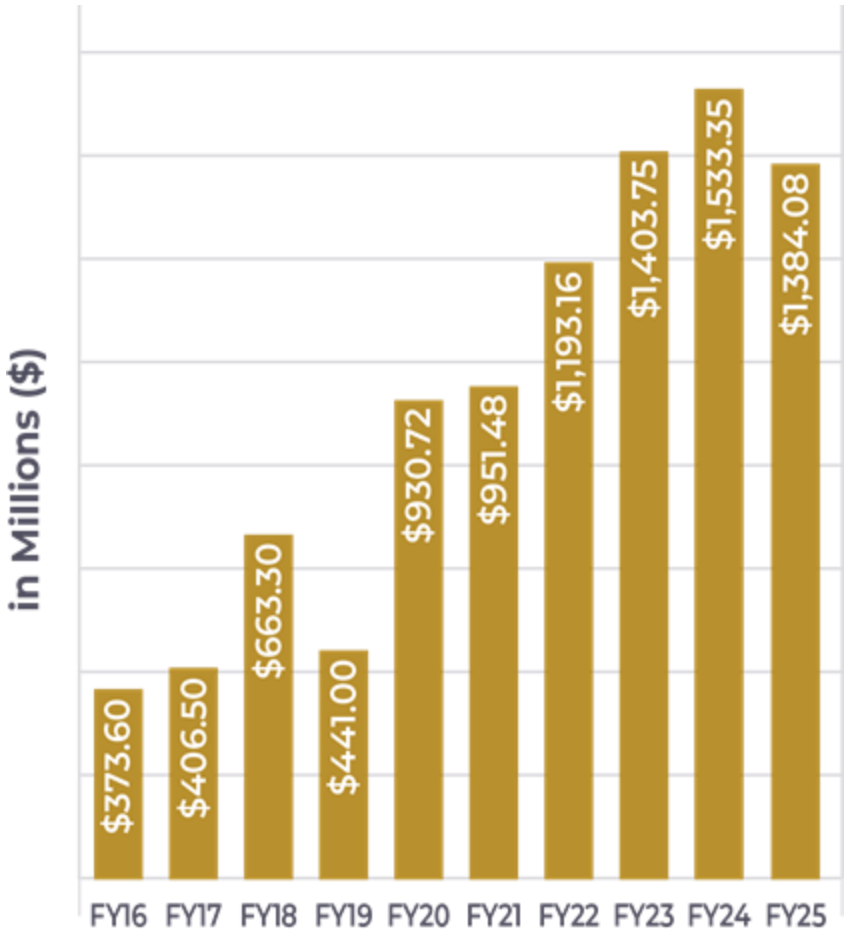
AFRL

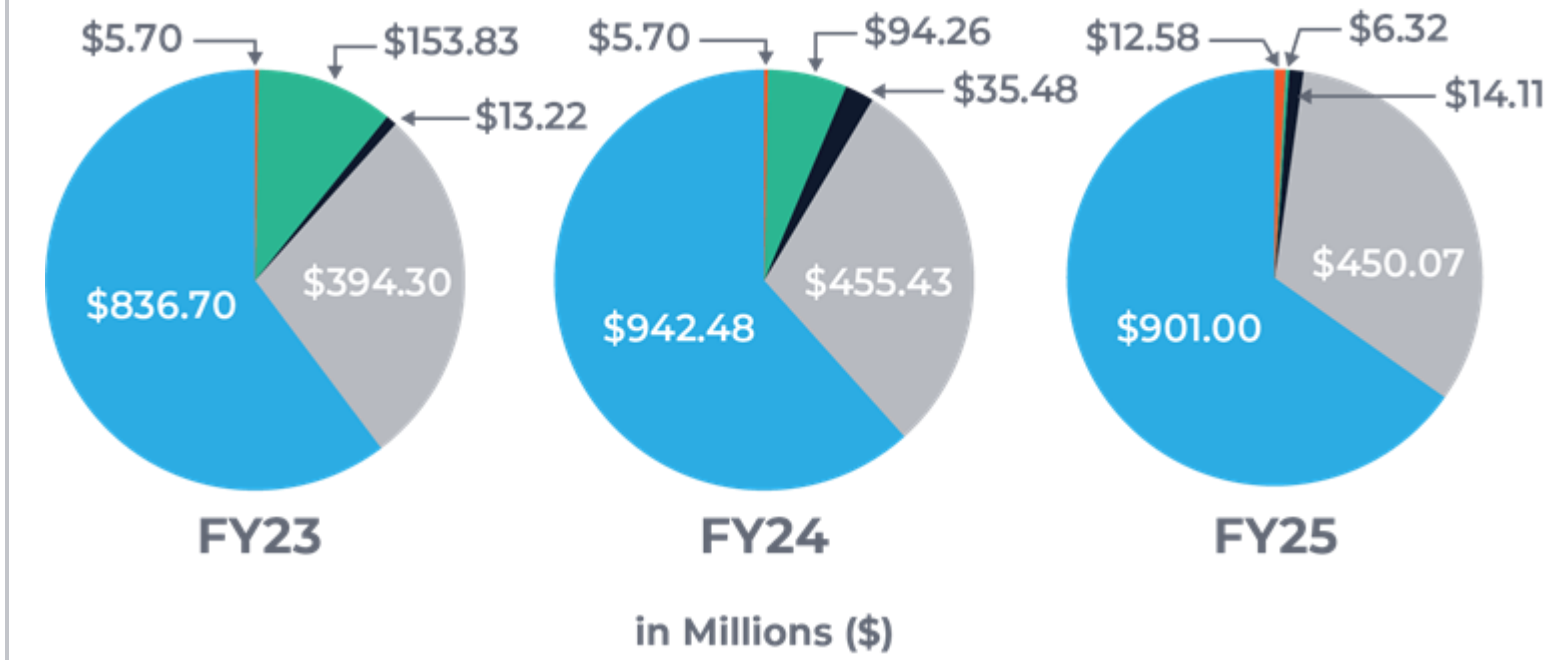
AFRL Mission Organizations

AFWERX | SPACEWERX

FUNDING THE FUTURE

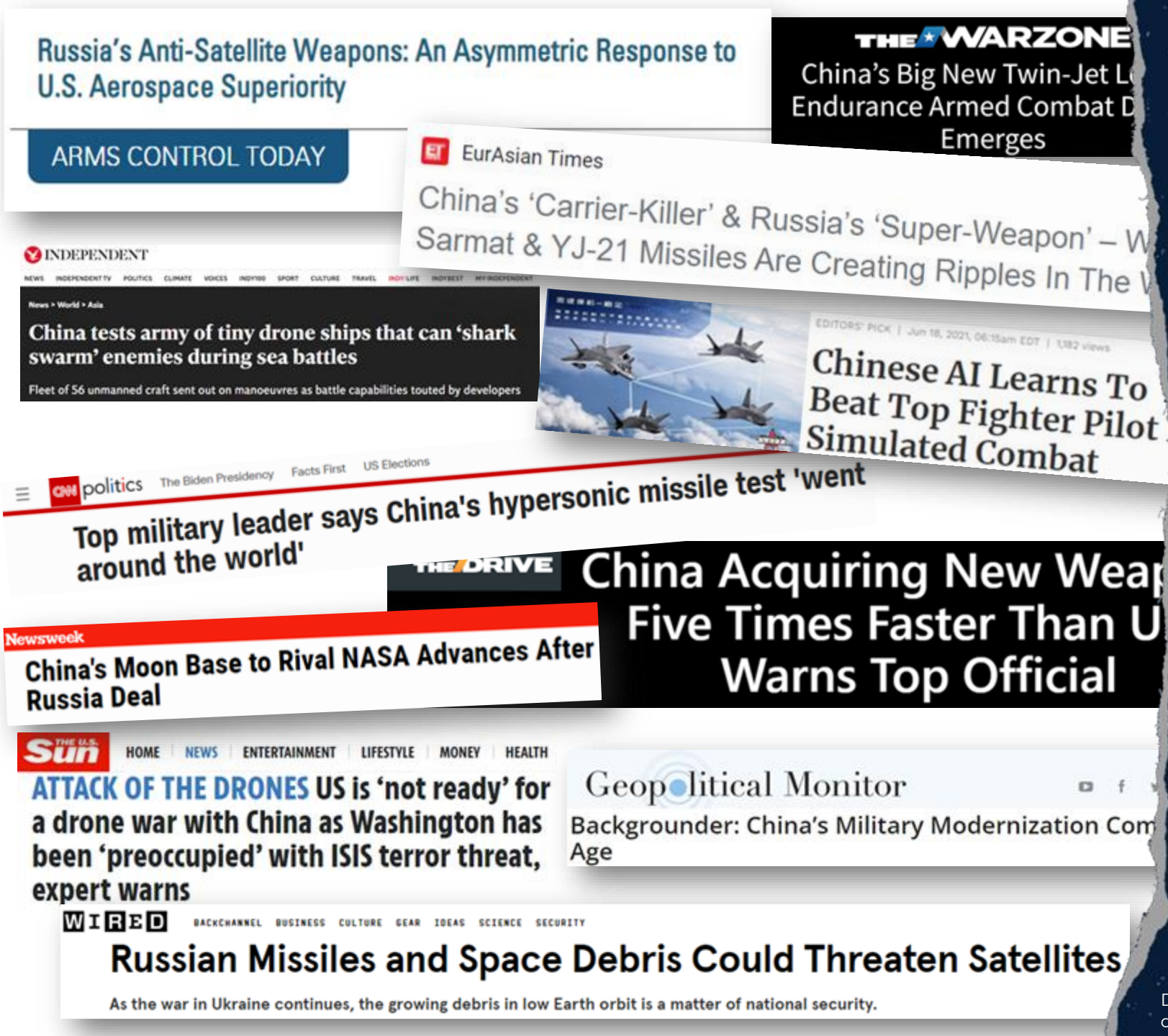
AFWERX Funding Profile





KEY

- Squadron Innovation Funds
- Prime Budget
- AFWERX Core Budget
- Air Force SBIR/STTR Budget
- Space Force SBIR/STTR Budget



AFWERX

STRATEGIC MILITARY AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETITION

Competitors, adversaries rapidly moving to challenge and surpass the U.S. Air and Space advantage

DIRECTOR'S PRIORITIES

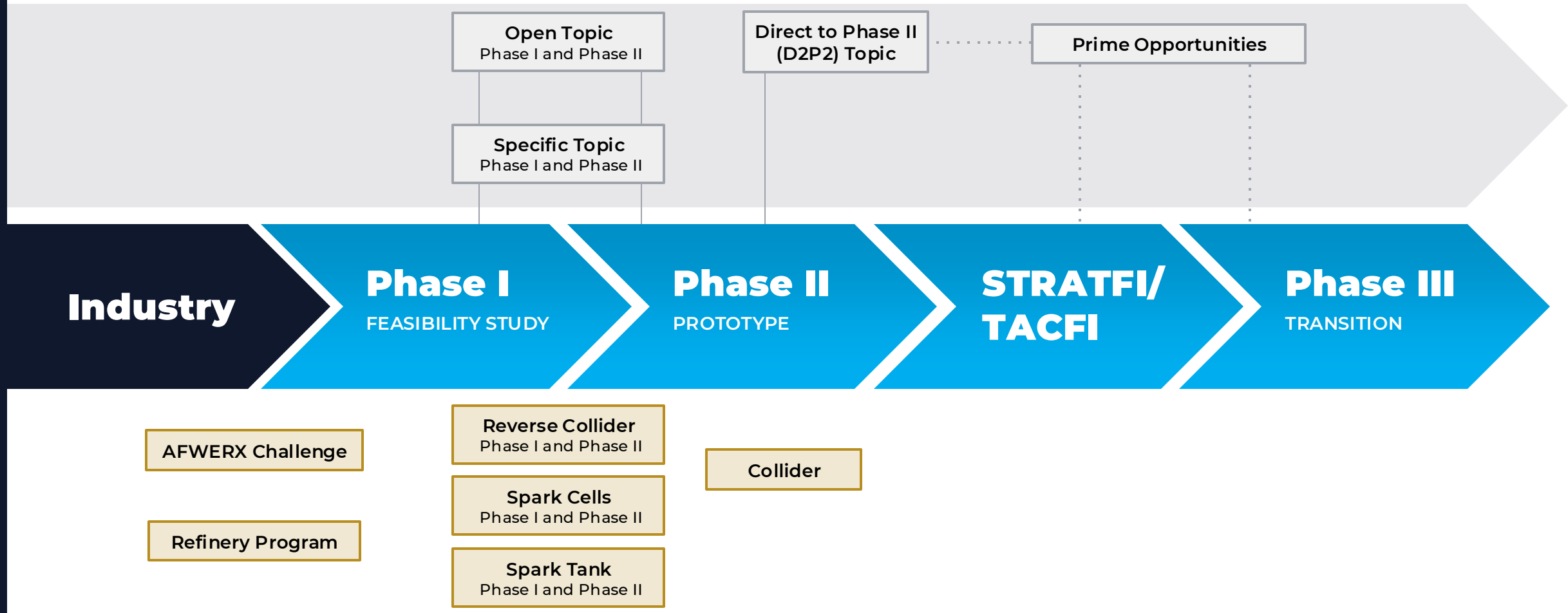
Strengthen the Team

Commercialize the Force

Connect the Ecosystem

THE AFWERX / SPACEWERX PROCESS

PROCESS STEPS

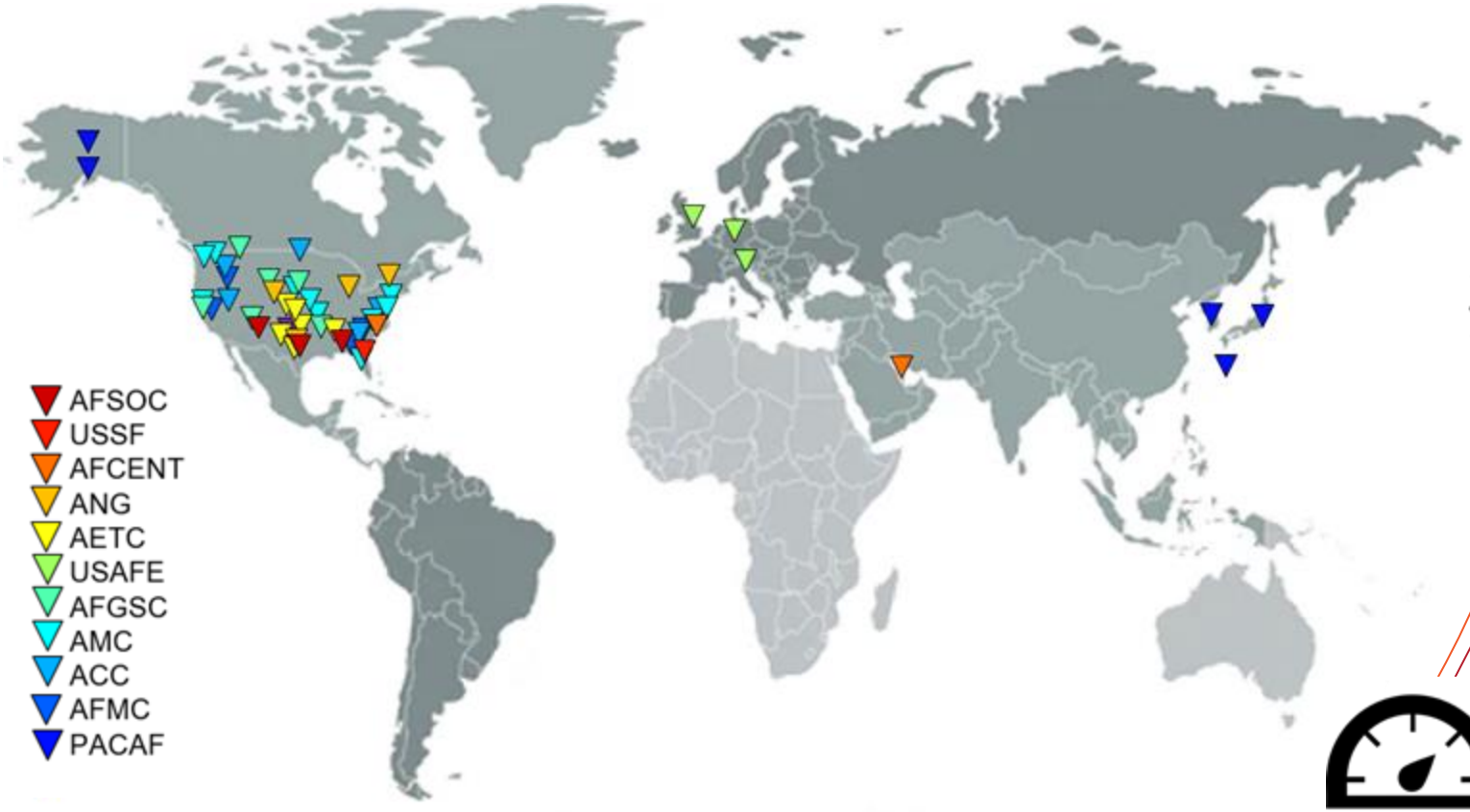


AIRMEN AND GUARDIAN INNOVATIONS

SPARK CONNECTIONS

Empowering Innovators, Accelerating Results

Global Spark Network



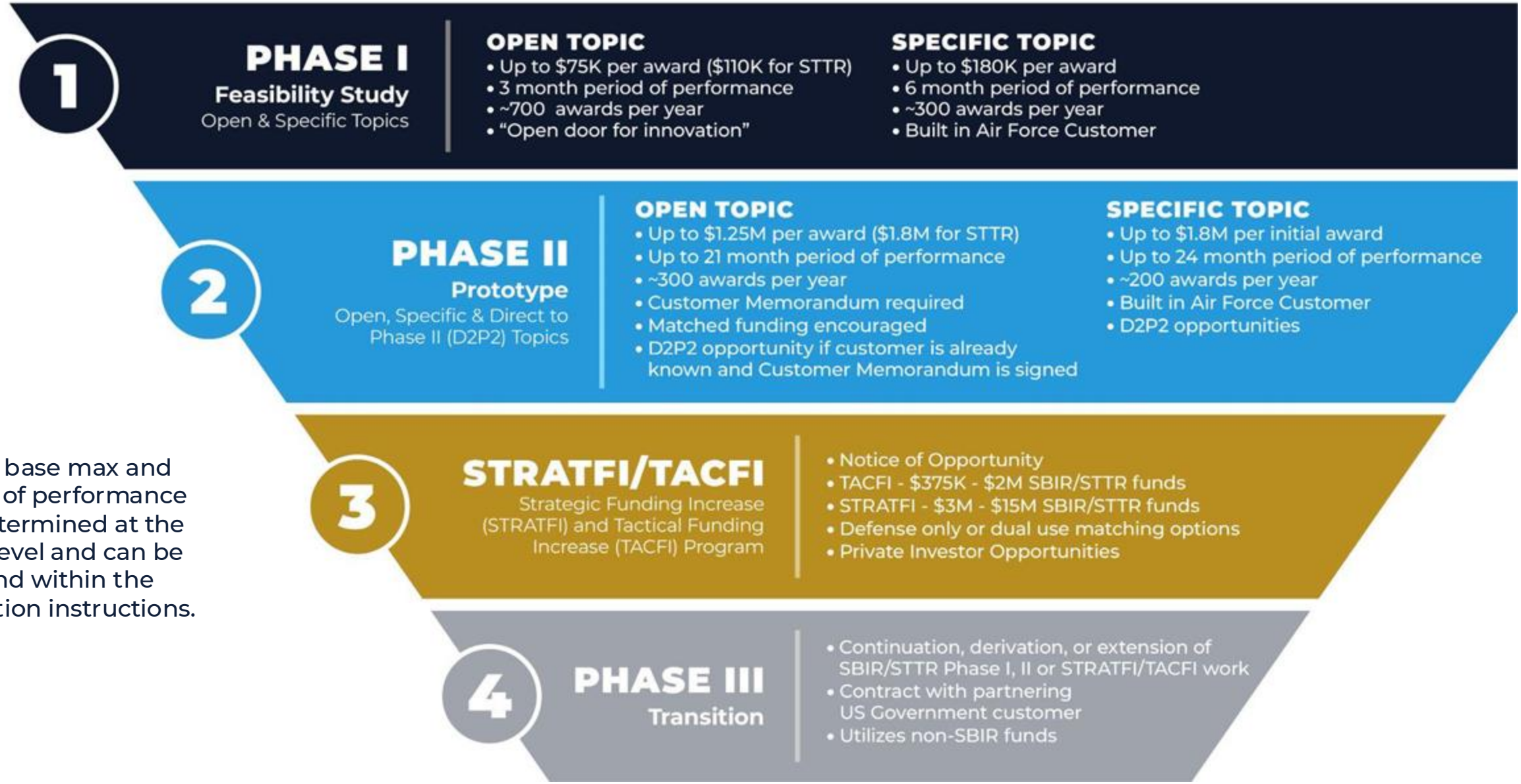
CONNECT
Build, empower and mobilize innovation networks

DEVELOP
Develop DAF innovators through curriculum and experience

SUPPORT
Support DAF innovators through facilitation and advocacy

Unparalleled access to and trust with DAF Innovators - 108 base-level cells, every MAJCOM, ~3,000 augmentees

VENTURES OPPORTUNITIES



*Cost base max and period of performance are determined at the topic level and can be found within the solicitation instructions.

STRATEGIC PARTNERING DIRECTORATE

- Collaborative R&D
- Technology Licensing
- Educational Partnerships
- Regional Hub Network
- K-12 STEM
- S&T Front Door
- Internships, Faculty Sharing

AFWERX / SPACEWERX

- Small Business Funding
- Venture Matching
- Rapid Acquisitions
- Challenge Workshops
- Priming Emerging Markets
- End-User Collider Events
- Innovation Inject, S&T to Operations

TOGETHER, WE WIN.

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PARTNER WITH US

AFWERX | SPACEWERX

CONNECT WITH US

Questions?

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The U.S. Army xTech and SBIR|STTR programs empower innovators to partner with the Army.

Nicole Fox
Contested Logistics & Sustainment Portfolio Lead and Army SBIR CATALYST Lead

The xTech and Army SBIR|STTR programs offer two approaches to lower barriers for innovative companies to work with the Army.

U.S. ARMY TECH

Target Participants (varies by competition)

- Entrepreneurs, innovators, and businesses
- Academic institutions
- Investors

Serves as a friendly front door for innovators

Awards cash prizes

Explores innovative S&T ideas

Provides stakeholder feedback, education, and networking

U.S. ARMY SBIR|STTR

Target Participants

- U.S. based small businesses
- Nontraditional businesses
- Research institutions

Solicits emerging needs from Army partners

Awards contracts through the Army SBIR|STTR Contracting Center of Excellence

Funds research, prototyping, and testing

Supports technology transition

Army SBIR CATALYST drives transition of technology prototypes through increased funding and collaboration.

Incentivizes relationships between small businesses, Army transition partners, and technology integrators to catalyze transition potential.

Army SBIR CATALYST awards have a potential total value of **$15 million or more**

Focus on these technology ecosystems maximizes the likelihood of successful transition and integration with Army programs.

Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning

- Automated Detection
- Biometrics
- Synthetic Data
- Training Algorithm

Energy Resiliency

- Adv. Energy Generation
- Energy Storage
- Micro-grid
- Transp. Power Systems
- Efficient Industry Tech.

Immersive & Wearables

- AR/VR/MR Solutions
- Physiological Monitoring
- Protective Equipment
- Human Machine Interface

Sensors

- Detection
- Sensing
- Signal Processing Algorithms
- Onboard Processing Hardware

Contested Logistics & Sustainment

- Tactical Communications
- Sustainment Materials
- Field-Repair Technologies
- Advanced Manufacturing

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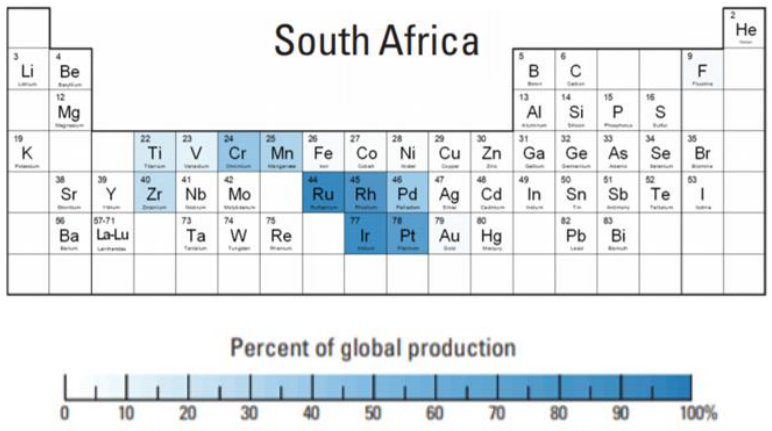
U.S. Geological Survey
Overview of Critical Mineral Supply Chains

JJ Barry
Assistant Chief, USGS National Minerals Information Center

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

USGS Energy and Mineral Resources Mission Area

- Energy Resources Program
- Mineral Resources Program
- The Mission Area informs:
- Resource management decisions by both federal and state land managers.
- Billions of dollars in investments by the private sector and federal government.
- Through impartial science, supply chain analysis, and decision support.



Mineral Intelligence and Supply Chain Analysis

- Analyze global supply, demand, and trade of mineral commodities.
- Forecast supply chain disruptions.
- Develop and update the Nation's critical minerals list.

Research and Assessments

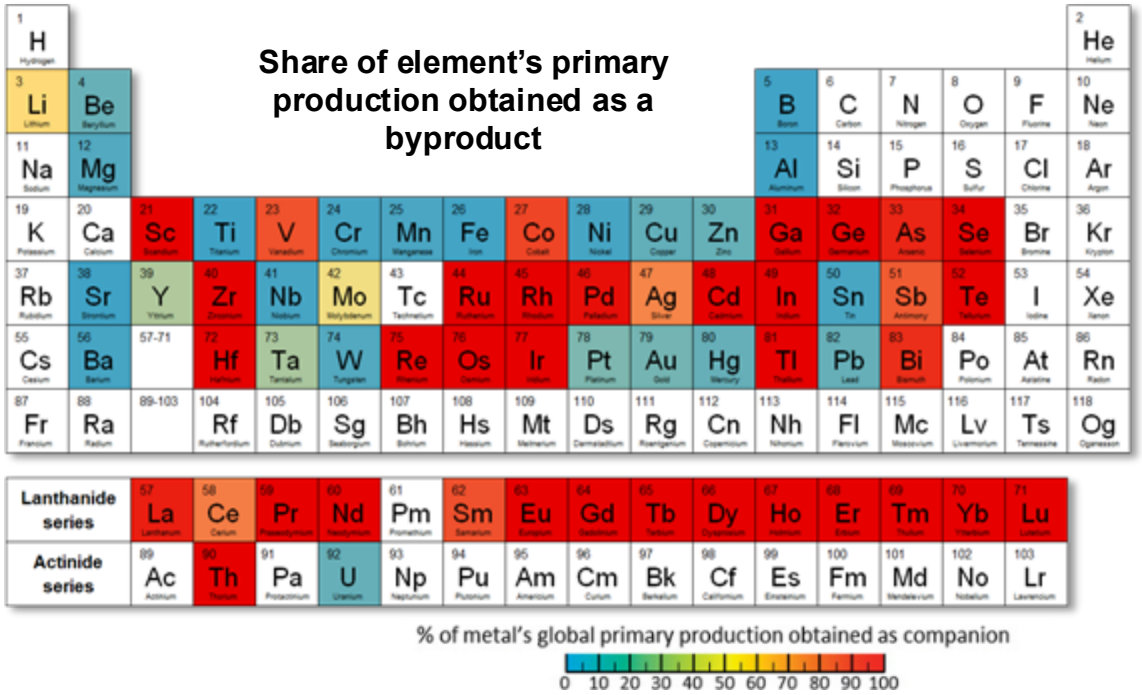
- Understand mineral systems and deposits.
- Understand impacts of mineral development.
- Quantify mineral resources across the resource life cycle and produce mineral resource assessments for Federal, State and international partners.

Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI)

- Data collection, mapping, and synthesis for understanding the Nation's geologic framework and mineral resources, including
  - Mineral resources still in the ground.
  - Above-ground resources in mine wastes and other waste streams.

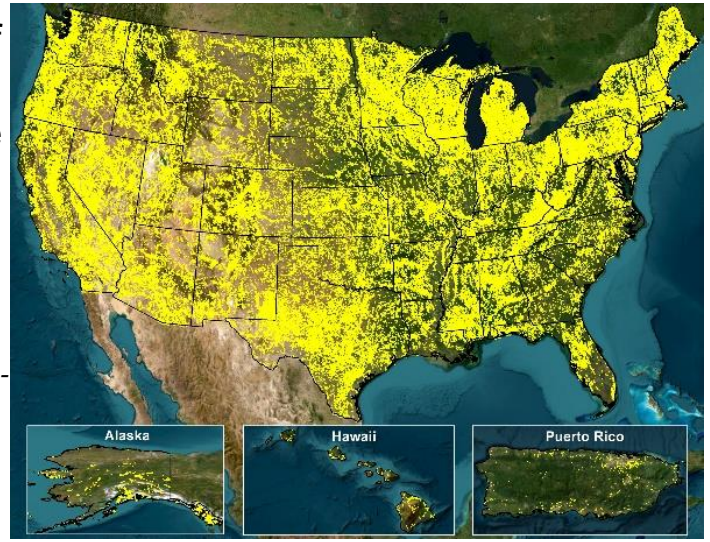
MINE WASTE AS A RESOURCE

- Mine waste is an environmental and physical concern on legacy mine lands.
- Many critical minerals have been left behind in mine waste during past mining.
- At some mine sites both remediation and critical mineral recovery are possible.
- There is no comprehensive, nationwide inventory of these mine wastes.
- USGS and partners (Federal, State) mine waste-related efforts:
  - National mine site database (map to right)
  - National mine waste inventory
  - National mine waste resource assessments
  - Database of abandoned mines (for physical and environmental hazards) with DOI



Nassar et al., 2015, By-product metals are technologically essential but have problematic supply, Science Advances 1 (3), e1400180

New USMIN geospatial database of current and historical mining locations. Yellow dots are mine features captured from historical USGS topographic maps. (In collaboration with BLM.)



Horton, J.D., and San Juan, C.A., 2016, Prospect- and mine-related features from U.S. Geological Survey 7.5- and 15-minute topographic quadrangle maps of the United States (ver. 10.0, May 2023): U.S. Geological Survey data release, https://doi.org/10.5066/F78W3CHG.

USGS

2023–2024 Critical Mineral Assessments with AI Support (CriticalMAAS)

SAM.GOV

Critical Mineral Assessments with AI Support (CriticalMAAS)

Broad Agency Announcement: https://www.darpa.mil/program/critical-mineral-assessments-with-ai-support

Goal

To accelerate USGS mineral resource assessment workflows using AI/ML to automate parts of the process.

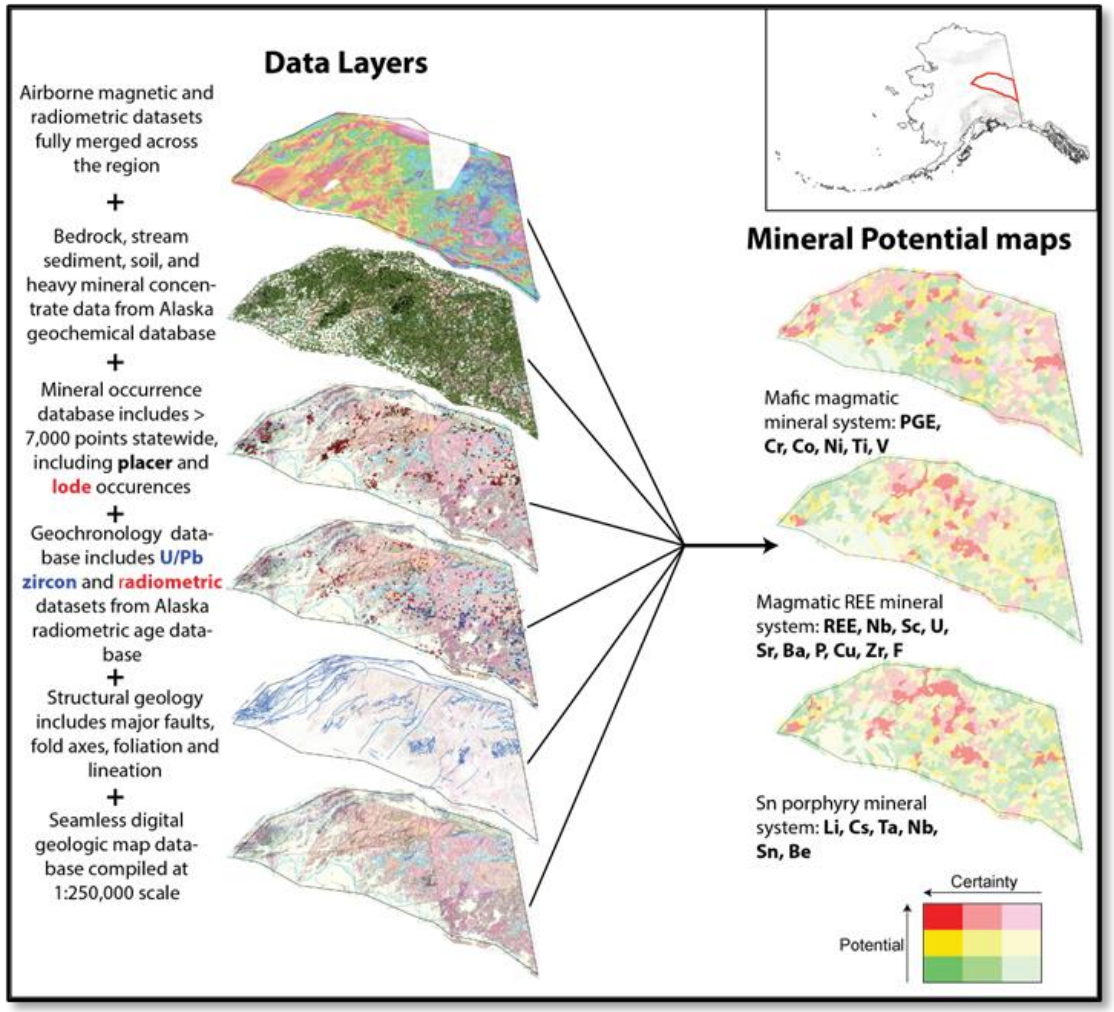
Four Technical Areas (TAs)

TA1 – Extracting geospatial data from maps and documents.

TA2 – Model extraction from knowledge.

TA3 – Mineral potential mapping exploiting multi-modal fusion.

TA4 – Human-in-the-loop learning (HITL) and mixed-initiative modeling.



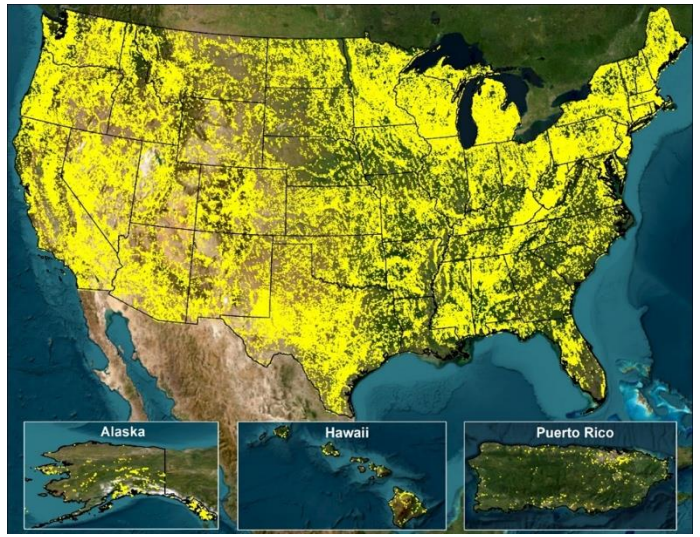
Kreiner et al., 2024

CRITICALMAAS: EARLY OUTCOMES

Initial vision was to accelerate assessment workflows by a factor of 100 to 1,000

Outcomes so far:

- Reproduced ***qualitative*** elements of regional tungsten assessment (***2-year project***) and US portion of global copper assessment (***overall 10-year project***) in ***~1 week*** each.
- With these techniques, the USMIN geospatial database of current and historical mine features *(right)* which took USGS staff 10 years to digitize, could now be mostly ***automated in a fraction of the time***.
- ***Broader application*** for automated digitizing and use of data from many types of legacy records ***beyond mineral assessments, or even geoscience***.
  - The 2022 pilot project solved (most of) a problem that's existed since the dawn of GIS. The new Georeferencer app can be applied to many types of paper maps.



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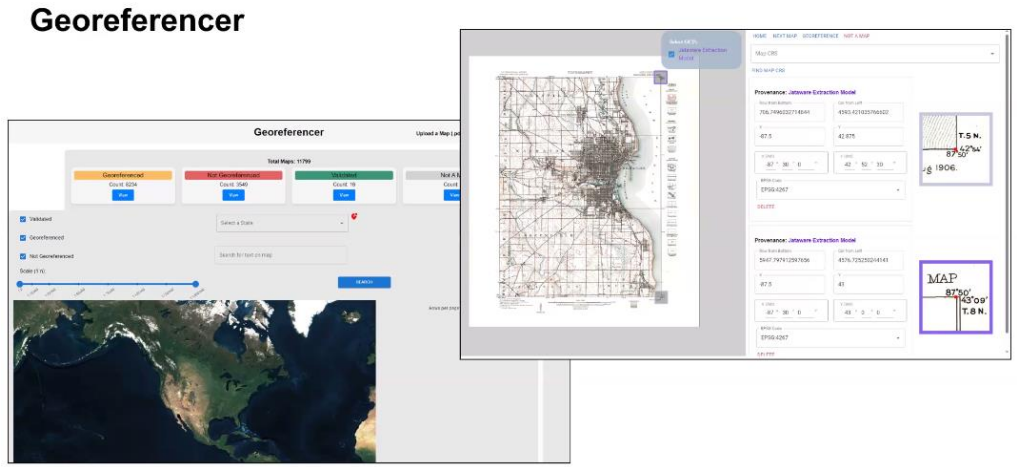


Mineral Information

Tracking Supply Chains and Identifying Critical Minerals: Supply, Demand & Trade Data

- The USGS collects the Nation's data on the global supply, demand, and trade of minerals.
- Analyze supply chain dependencies for current and emerging technology sectors including:
  - Defense
  - Advanced manufacturing
  - Consumer technologies
  - Renewable energy generation and storage
- Advise the State Dept., Dept. of Commerce, U.S. International Development Finance Corp., and U.S. Trade Representative on strategic investments and trade partnerships for mineral commodities, processing, and related manufacturing.
- Leads the interagency development of the Nation's list of critical minerals under the Energy Act of 2020.

Key elements for energy generation

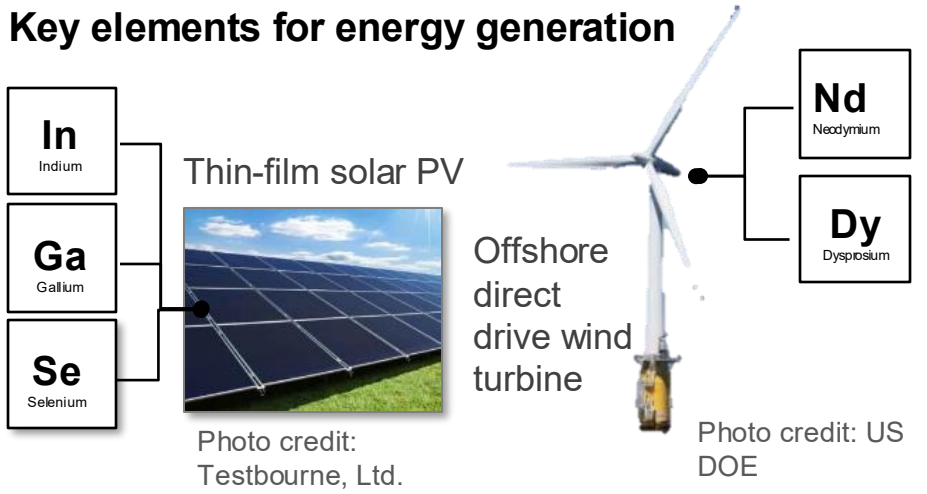
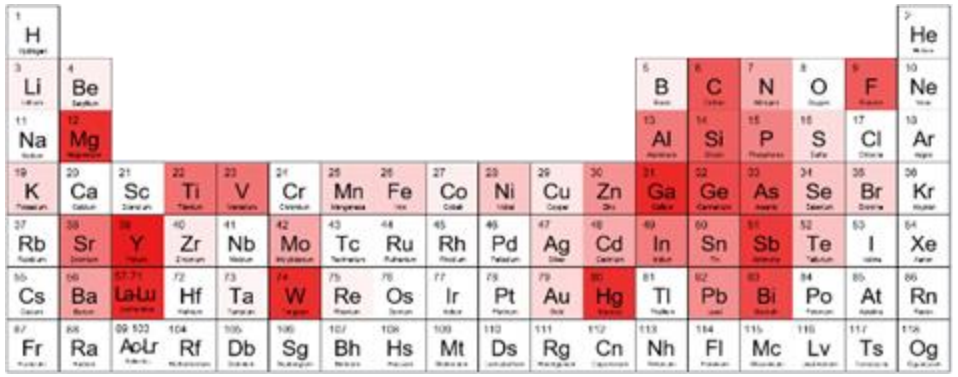


Photo credit: Testbourne, Ltd.

Photo credit: US DOE

Share of each element's global production from China



Mineral Demand Drivers

End-Use Sector Growth

Technology Innovation

Policy & Regulation

Price Elasticity & Substitution

Geopolitical Strategy

Consumer Preferences & Market Trends

Global Economic Conditions

Denser

Photo credit: Telsa, Inc.

Lithium-ion batteries

Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt (NMC) and Nickel-Cobalt-Aluminum (NCA) lithium-ion batteries have high energy densities allowing for greater energy storage in smaller volumes and less mass

Lighter

Photo credit: Airbus

Aluminum-lithium alloys

Al-Li alloys are lighter and stronger than standard aluminum alloys thus providing better fuel efficiency and lower maintenance costs

Hotter

Photo credit: Master Sgt. John R. Nimmo, Sr.

Superalloys

Single-crystal turbine blades utilizing cobalt, rhenium, chromium, tantalum, hafnium, ruthenium, and other elements improve design tolerances that increase thrust and enable higher operating temperatures

2024 U.S. Net Import Reliance

All minerals evaluated

- The U.S. was 100% reliant on imports for 15 minerals
  - 15 minerals in 2023
- Over 50% import reliant for 46 minerals
  - 49 minerals in 2023

Critical minerals

- The U.S. was 100% import reliant for 12 critical minerals in 2024
  - 12 critical minerals in 2023*
- Over 50% import reliant for an additional 28 critical minerals
  - 29 additional critical minerals in 2023*

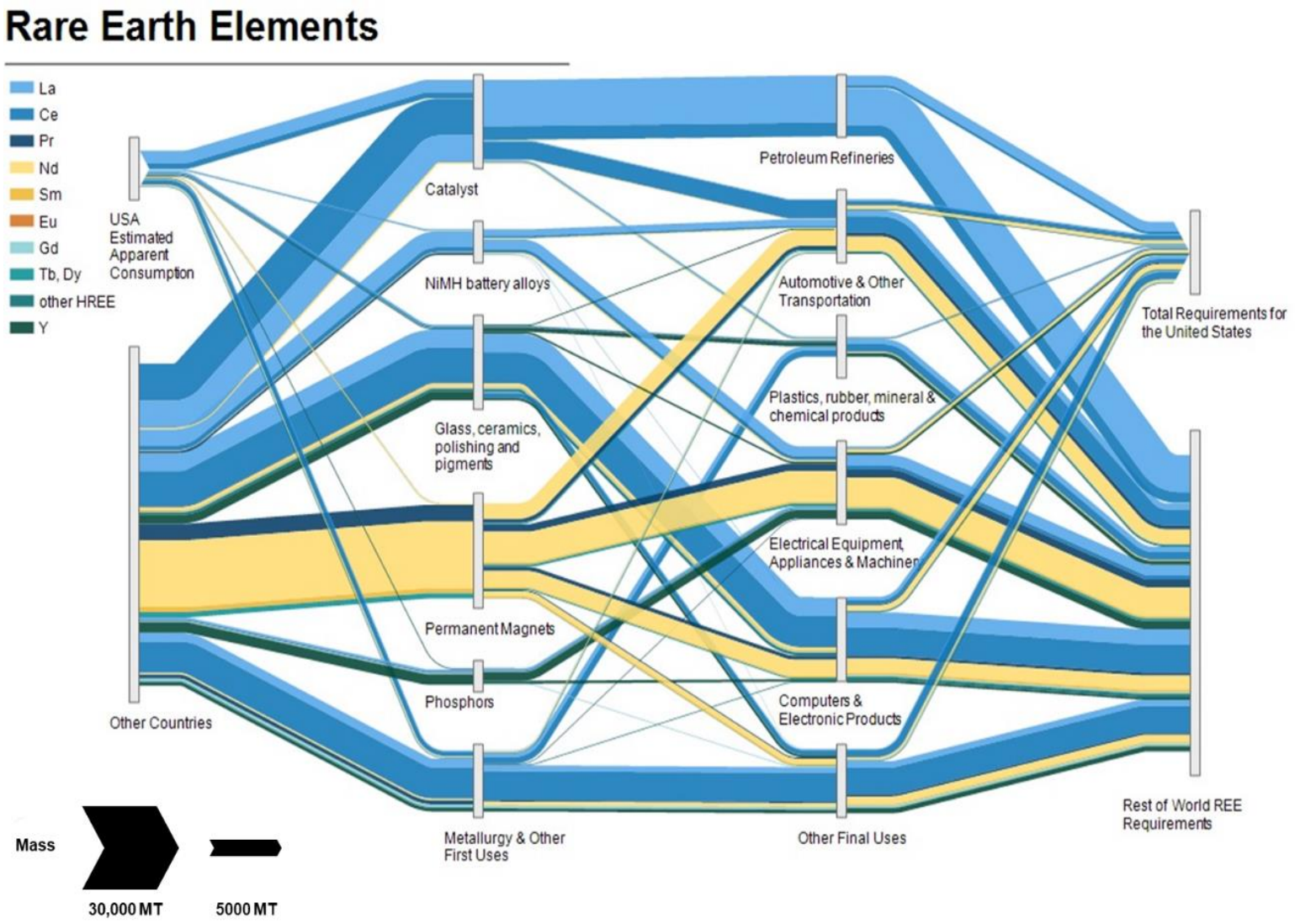
*The 2022 list of critical minerals identified 50 critical minerals; the 2018 list identified 35. The primary reason for the increase was that the 2022 list identified individual rare earths and platinum group metals instead of grouping these commodities.

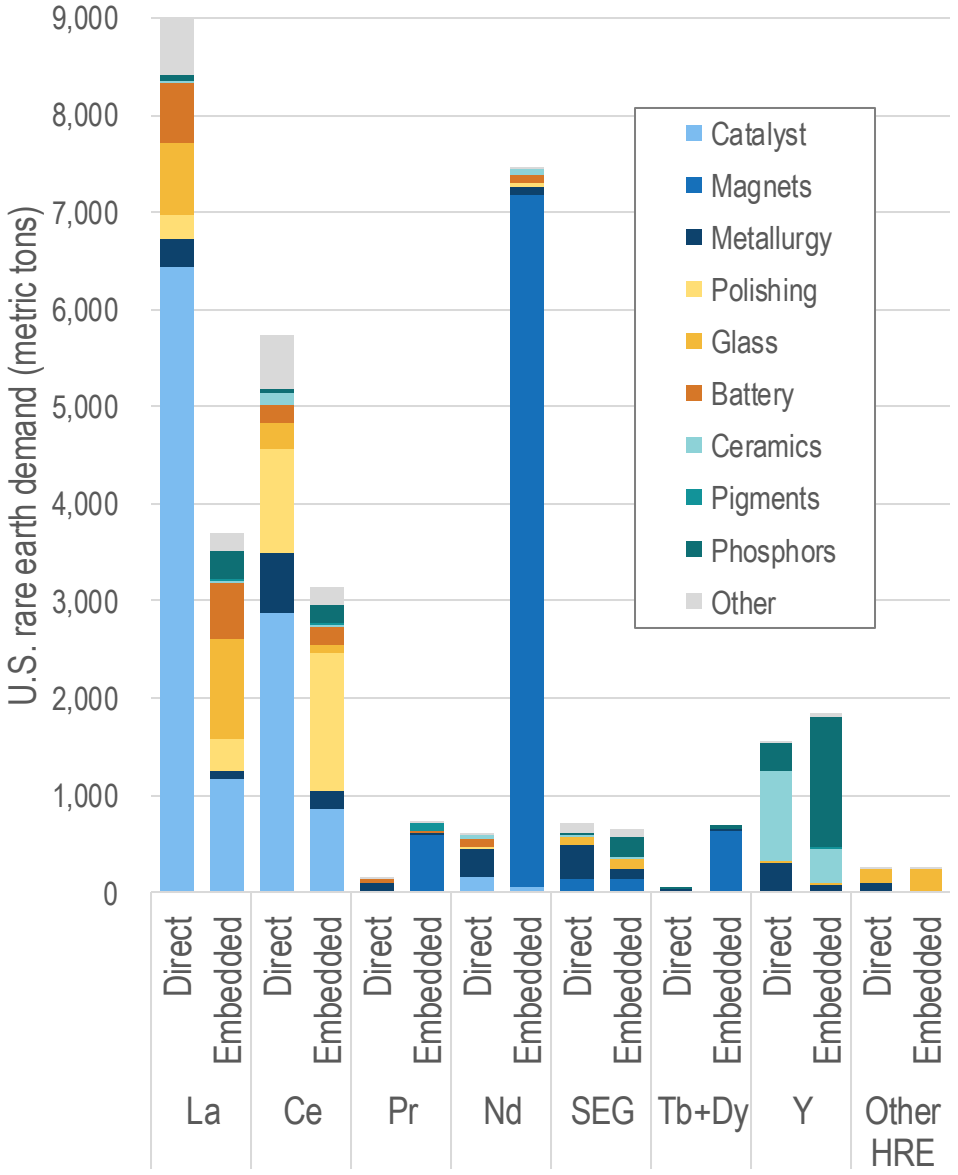
USGS

Figure 2 in MCS

Commodity	Net import reliance as a percentage of apparent consumption in 2024	Leading import sources (2020-2023)
ARSENIC, all forms	100	China,[3] Morocco, Malaysia, Belgium
ASBESTOS	100	Brazil, Russia
CESIUM	100	Germany, China
FLUORSPAR	100	Mexico, Vietnam, South Africa, China[3]
GALLIUM, metal	100	Japan, China, Germany, Canada
GRAPHITE (NATURAL)	100	China,[3] Canada, Mexico, Mozambique
INDIUM	100	Republic of Korea, Japan, Canada, Belgium
MANGANESE	100	Gabon, South Africa, Australia, Malaysia
MICA (NATURAL), sheet	100	China, Brazil, India
NIOBIUM (COLUMBIUM)	100	Brazil, Canada
RUBIDIUM	100	China, Germany, Russia
SCANDIUM	100	Japan, China, Philippines
STRONTIUM	100	Mexico, Germany
TANTALUM	100	China,[3] Australia, Germany, Indonesia
YTTRIUM, compounds	100	China,[3] Germany
GEMSTONES	99	India, Israel, Belgium, South Africa
ABRASIVES, fused aluminum oxide	>95	China,[3] Canada, Brazil, Austria
NEPHELINE SYENITE	>95	Canada
TITANIUM, sponge metal	>95	Japan, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia
POTASH	93	Canada, Russia, Belarus, Israel
BISMUTH, metal, alloys, and scrap	89	China,[3] Republic of Korea
IRON OXIDE PIGMENTS, natural and synthetic	87	China,[3] Germany, Brazil, Canada
TITANIUM MINERAL CONCENTRATES	86	South Africa, Madagascar, Canada, Australia
ANTIMONY, metal and oxide	85	China,[3] Belgium, India, Bolivia
PLATINUM	85	South Africa, Belgium, Germany, Italy
STONE (DIMENSION)	83	Brazil, China,[3] Italy, Turkey
DIAMOND (INDUSTRIAL), stones	81	India, South Africa, Russia, Australia
RARE EARTHS,[4] compounds and metals	80	China,[3] Malaysia, Japan, Estonia
PEAT	78	Canada
CHROMIUM, all forms	77	South Africa, Kazakhstan, Canada, Finland
COBALT, metal, oxides, and salts	76	Norway, Finland, Japan, Canada
BARITE	>75	India, China,[3] Morocco, Mexico
BAUXITE	>75	Jamaica, Turkey, Guyana, Australia
MAGNESIUM METAL	>75	Israel, Canada, Turkey, Czechia
TIN, refined	73	Peru, Bolivia, Indonesia, Brazil
ZINC, refined	73	Canada, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Peru
ABRASIVES, silicon carbide	69	China,[3] Brazil, Canada
RHENIUM	65	Chile, Canada, Germany, Poland
SILVER	64	Mexico, Canada, Republic of Korea, Poland
ALUMINA	59	Brazil, Jamaica, Australia, Canada
MAGNESIUM COMPOUNDS	52	China,[3] Israel, Brazil, Canada
GERMANIUM	>50	Belgium, Canada, China, Germany
IODINE	>50	Chile, Japan
LITHIUM	>50	Chile, Argentina
SELENIUM, metal	>50	Philippines, Mexico, Canada, Poland
TUNGSTEN	>50	China,[3] Germany, Bolivia, Vietnam
SILICON, metal and ferrosilicon	<50	Brazil, Russia, Canada, Malaysia
GARNET (INDUSTRIAL)	48	South Africa, Australia, India, China[3]
NICKEL	48	Canada, Norway, Australia, Brazil
ALUMINUM	47	Canada, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, China[3]
DIAMOND (INDUSTRIAL), bort, grit, and dust and powder	47	China,[3] Republic of Korea, Ireland, Russia
COPPER, refined	45	Chile, Canada, Mexico, Peru
MICA (NATURAL), scrap and flake	41	China, Canada, India, Finland
VANADIUM	40	Canada, Brazil, Austria, South Africa
PALLADIUM	36	Russia, South Africa, Belgium, Italy
VERMICULITE	34	South Africa, Brazil, Zimbabwe
FELDSPAR	33	Turkey, Mexico
LEAD, refined	28	Canada, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Australia
PERLITE	26	Greece, China
BROMINE	<25	Israel, Jordan, China[3]
TELLURIUM	<25	Canada, Philippines, Japan, Germany
ZIRCONIUM, ores and concentrates	<25	South Africa, Australia, Senegal
SALT	24	Canada, Chile, Mexico, Egypt
CEMENT	22	Turkey, Canada, Vietnam, Greece

Quantifying the demand of mineral commodities embedded in finished and semi-finished goods provides a more comprehensive assessment of import reliance.





USGS

Alonso, E., Pineault, D.G., Gambogi, J., and Nassar, N.T., 2023, Mapping first to final uses for rare earth elements, globally and in the United States: Journal of Industrial Ecology, v. 27, no. 1, p. 312–322.

Mineral Supply Drivers

Geological Availability

Capital Investment & Financing

Permitting & Regulatory Environment

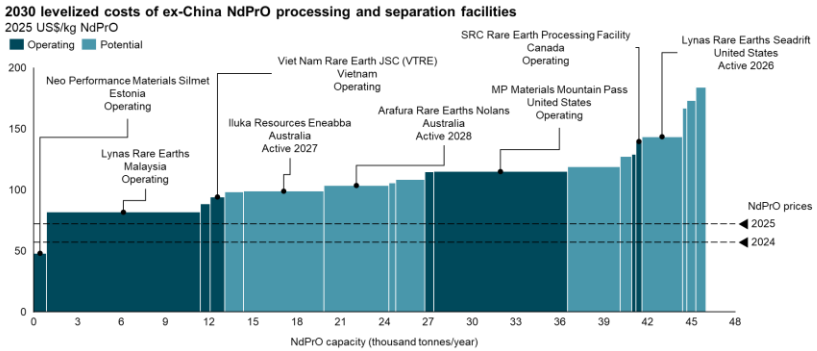
Processing & Refining Capacity

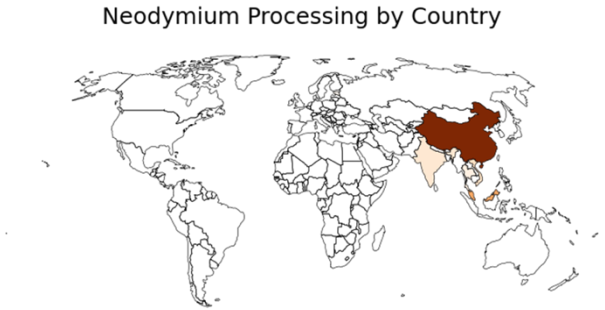
Workforce & Technical Expertise

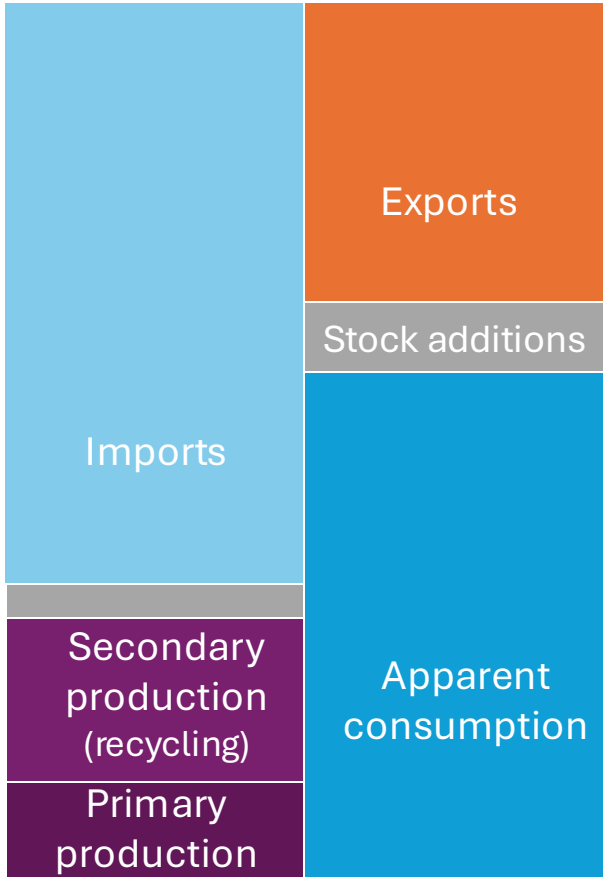
Infrastructure & Logistics

Geopolitical Risk & Trade Policy

Recycling & Secondary Supply







DARPA Partnership: Open Price Exploration for National security (OPEN)

OPEN goal: Increase the transparency of price, supply, and demand predictions and forecasts in critical materials markets.

Challenge: Commodity purchases are negotiated using opaque and flawed pricing data from futures or spot transactions.

USGS role: Subject matter expertise/Deputy Program Manager for DARPA's effort.

USGS interest: We receive frequent inquiries from Congress, the Administration, and industry (manufacturing, healthcare, biomedical research, aerospace) about commodities for which supply risk and pricing shocks are intertwined factors in commodity availability.

Increasing Transparency in Critical Materials Price, Supply, and Demand Forecasts (darpa.mil)

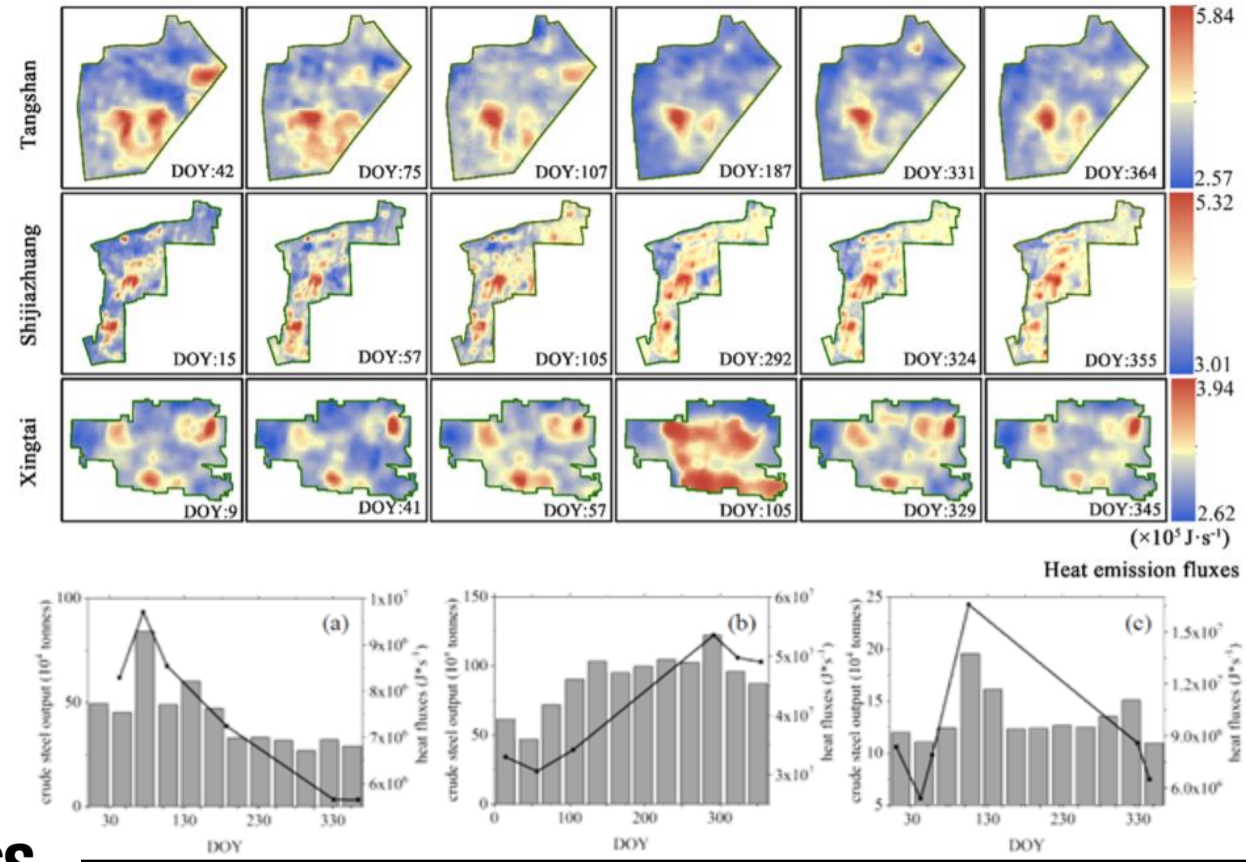
DLA Strategic Materials Requirements Report

Type	Domestic	International
Production (Mine and Refined)	X	X
Imports	X	
Exports	X	
Stocks	X	
Consumption	X	X
Prices	X	
Capacity	X	X
Capacity Status	X	X
Applications Areas	X	
Substitution	X	

Remote sensing techniques can significantly enhance our understanding of mineral production.

Remote sensing techniques can be developed to provide:

- Early-warning system that detects near real-time stoppages at individual facilities.
- Insights on countries for which reliable data are not available (e.g., North Korea).
- Validation of production data obtained from traditional means.



Nanguo copper smelter
Guangxi, China

DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.9b02643
Environ. Sci. Technol. 2019, 53, 11031−11042

Federal Technology Symposium

Forging the Future: Strategic Innovation Pathways for National Defense

Speakers:

- Lieutenant Colonel Ian Clowes, Program Manager, AFWERX
- Nicole Fox, S&T Portfolio Manager, Contested Logistics & Sustainment, CATALYST Team Lead, Army Applied SBIR|STTR Program, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Research and Technology, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology
- James "JJ" Barry, Assistant Chief of the Mineral Commodity Section, US Geological Survey National Mineral Information Center (NMIC)
- **Karen Krause-Bencal**, Vice President, Federal Programs, Applied Research Institute

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DARPAConnect@darpa.mil

DARPA Technical Offices

Biological Technologies Office

- Warfighter
  - Tactical combat casualty care
  - Performance optimization
- Warfighting
  - Edge manufacturing
  - Create operational advantages
- Frontier technologies
  - Data factories
  - Simulation

Defense Sciences Office

- Materials, manufacturing, and structures
- Sensing, measuring, and affecting
- Math, computation, and processing
- Complex, dynamic, and intelligent systems

Information Innovation Office

- Transformative artificial intelligence
- Offensive and defensive cyber
- Fighting in the information domain
- Resilient, adaptable, and secure systems

Microsystems Technology Office

- Quantum, photonic, and organic circuits
- New microsystems manufacturing ecosystem
- Dual-use by design

Strategic Technology Office

- Advanced sensors and processing
- Battlefield effects
- Command, control, and communications
- Systems Warfare
- National Resilience
- Economic Warfare
- Protracted War
- National Mobilization

Tactical Technology Office

- Reimagination of hardware design, development, and test
- Rapid, affordable, and scalable manufacturing
- Decisive long-range effects
- Novel approaches that radically change the military advantage calculus

Supporting Untapped Innovators: Breaking Down Barriers to Entry

The Connect Journey

We transform potential into impact by guiding individuals through a comprehensive framework designed to foster a vibrant community of contributors.

Key Offerings

REGIONAL AND VIRTUAL EVENTS

- Full-Day Pop-Up Events
- Monthly Webinars and Trainings
- Support for Regional Partner Engagements
- Workshops and Conferences

CURATED CURRICULUM

- Continuously Expanding Topics
- Navigates DARPA's Unique Needs and Intricacies
- Filled with Succinct and Actionable Guidance and Best Practices

COACHING AND SUPPORT

- One-on-One Office Hours and Coaching Sessions
- Tailored Recommendations and Action Planning

ROBUST NETWORKING

- Program Manager Engagement
- Outreach Guidance
- Teaming Opportunities
- Regional and Strategic Partnerships

Regional Pop-Up Events

Deep Dive into DARPA

These full-day events cover a breadth of topics key to working with DARPA. Hear directly from a speaker list packed with DARPA PMs, leadership, and staff on hand to give you insider insights.

Sessions Include

- Engaging DARPA Program Managers
- Heilmeier Catechism: Understanding Effective DARPA Communication
- Understanding DARPA Announcements and Contract Vehicles
- Reviewing and Analyzing a DARPA Opportunity
- DARPA SBIR and STTR Program
- Understanding DARPA Security Resources
- Preparing Your DARPA Proposal
- Tying It All Together: Strategies for Success
- Opportunities for Networking

Join DARPAConnect

The Connect Corner

Webinars

Online sessions that offer a unique opportunity to learn about the mechanics of working with DARPA directly from DARPA presenters.

Ask Me Anything

An open forum where participants send in their questions and DARPA presenters answer them in a group setting

One-on-One Coaching

30-minute private session where participants introduce their research interests and explore how they may fit at DARPA

Office Hours

10-minute sessions during which participants ask specific questions about working with DARPA in a private setting

open mic

WITH DARPA

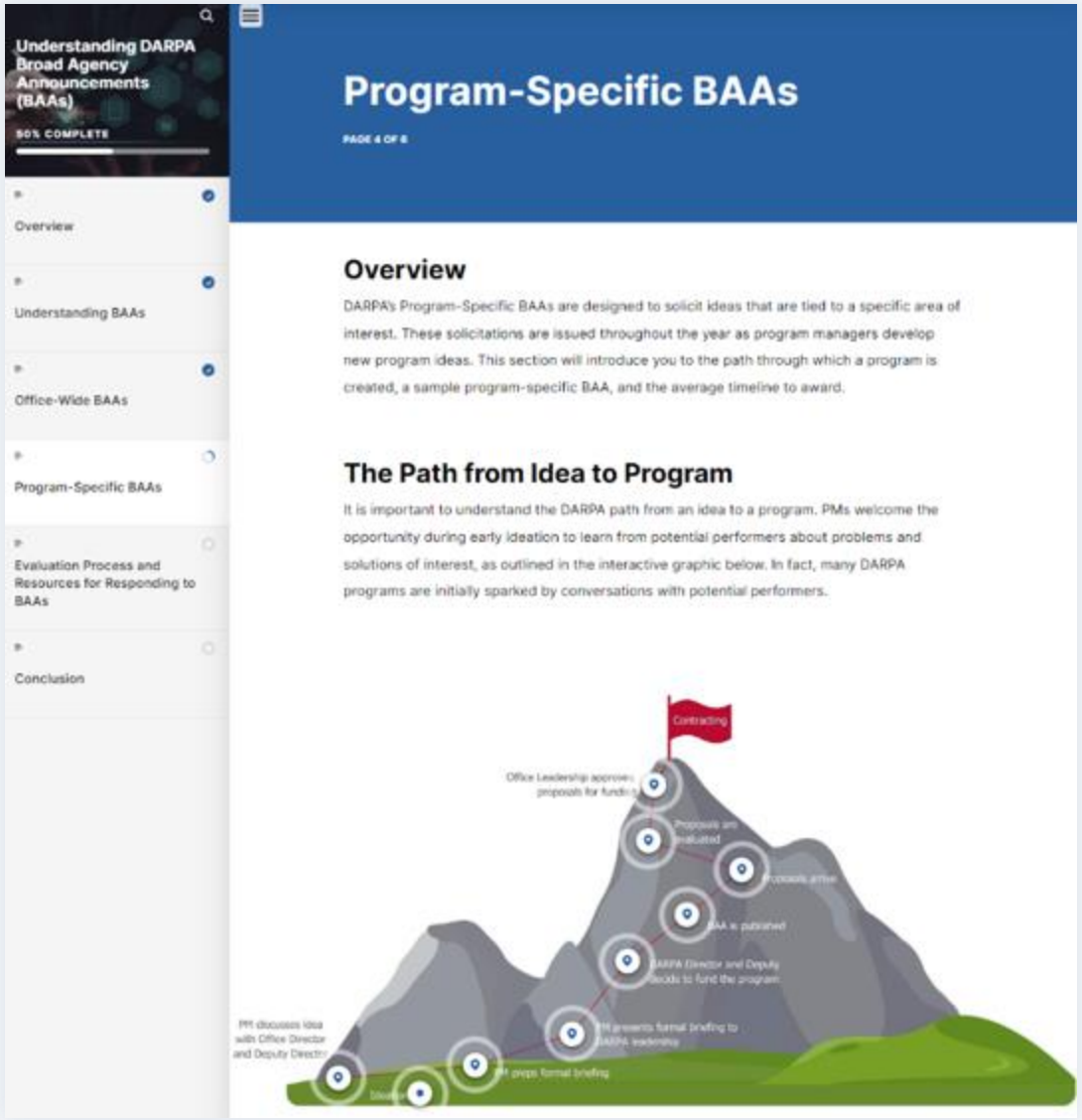
DARPA's new monthly 30-minute quick-hit session that brings you the latest from DARPA's tech offices— key announcements, funding opportunities, upcoming events, and more.

Customized Curriculum

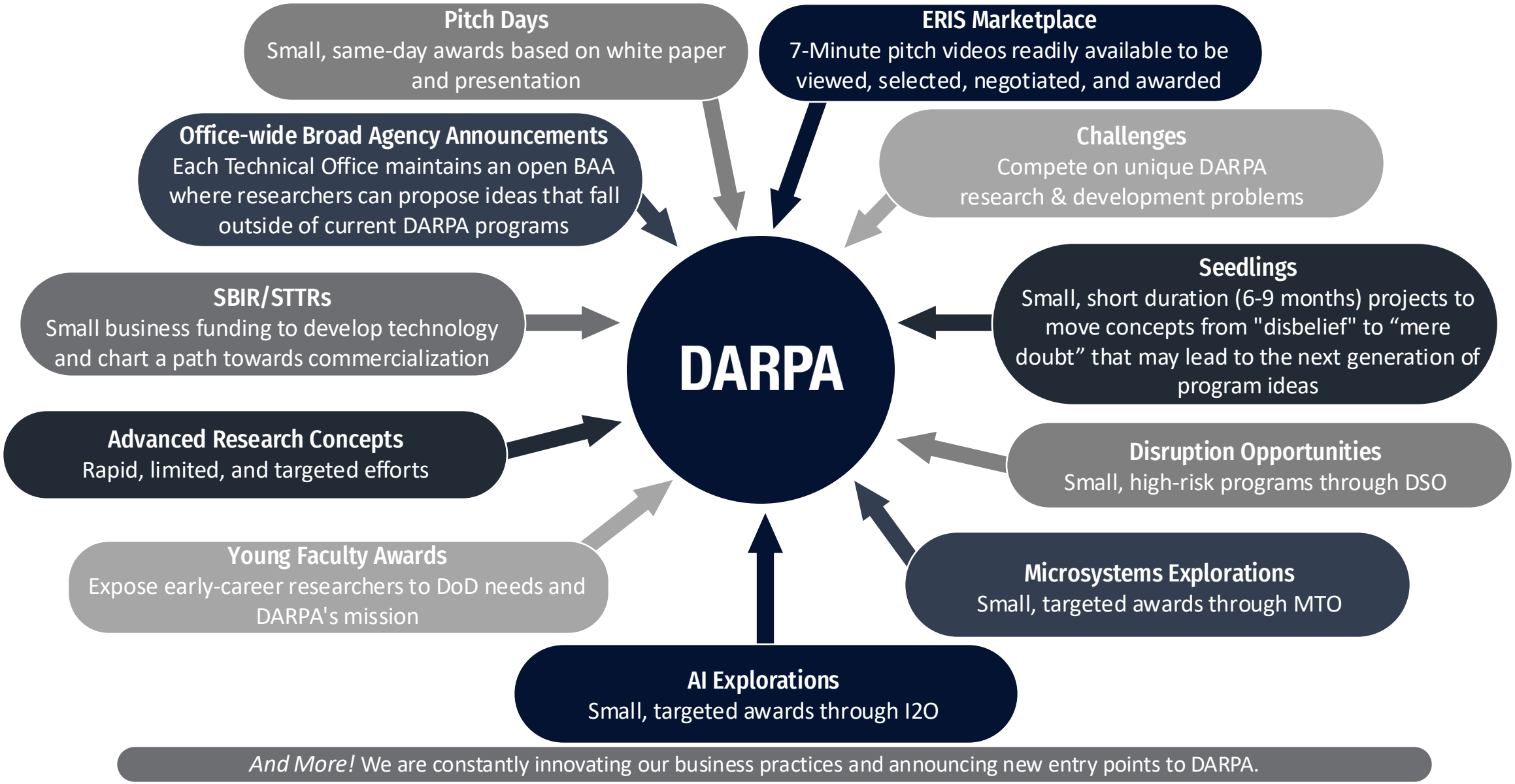
Current Lessons Include:

- DARPA101: Introduction to DARPA
- The Heilmeier Catechism
- DARPA Award Vehicles and Solicitations
- Understanding DARPA Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs)
- Making the Most of a DARPA Proposers Day
- Introduction to DARPA Security
- DARPA SBIR/STTR Small Business Programs
- Tips for DARPA Proposal Success
- Opportunities to Work with DARPA
- Working with DARPA: Global Participation and Engagements

And more!



DARPA Entry Points



Meet DARPA ERIS Marketplace

DARPA's Marketplace of 7-Minute Post-Competitive Videos

Current ERIS Topic Areas

ERIS offers a range of core Topic Areas and periodically introduces limited-time Special Topics.

Explore each area to see where your solution may fit.

Elusive Objects

Detecting and tracking across air, land, and space.

Next-Gen Sensing

Overcoming size, weight, power, cost, and performance limits.

Resilient Systems

Advanced tech for critical infrastructure, command, and control.

Chem/Bio Defense

Protection of people, agriculture, and bioeconomy from threats.

Operational Resilience

Human performance, biotech for supplies, AI/ML in bio/chem.

Emergent Science

New metrology and methods for quantum, materials, and adaptive human–AI ecosystems.

How It Works

- **Monthly intake:** submissions open the 1st–end of each month; feedback by mid-month
- **Rolling assessment:** 30-day evaluation cycles with two-week decision targets and direct, actionable feedback
- **Direct award:** any .mil user can view solutions and issue awards inside the platform

ERIS Submission Process:

Create & Upload 7-Minute Pitch Video

Video Assessment by SME Panel

Panel Determines Acceptance into the Marketplace

Video Reaches DARPA PMs and DoD Organizations

Pre-qualified for rapid contracting

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