THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SERVICE ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES
            DIRECTOR, DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS
              AGENCY
            DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AGENCY
            DIRECTOR, DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY
            DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
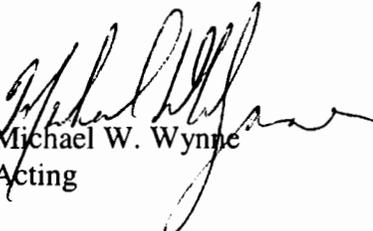   DIRECTOR, MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Independent Research and Development

Defense contractors spend in excess of $3 billion annually conducting independent research and development (IR&D). IR&D is research and development initiated and conducted by defense contractors independent of DoD control and without direct DoD funding.

I believe we can take better advantage of the sizable IR&D investment being made by defense contractors. Moreover, DoD policy (DoDD 3204.1) requires DoD personnel to consider the work and accomplishments of contractor IR&D when planning, programming, and budgeting for DoD R&D, and to enhance their knowledge of contractor IR&D by reviewing reports of contractor IR&D efforts. The policy also requires the Heads of DoD Components to ensure their staffs search the IR&D database prior to starting new projects to determine if the proposed work duplicates any contractor IR&D effort.

Information about contractor IR&D activities is available to DoD personnel through a secure Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) database over the Internet. DoD personnel with access to the database can search over 165,000 IR&D project descriptions covering activities from the mid 1970s to the present. More than 2,100 new and updated IR&D project summaries are added to the database each year. DoD personnel can register for this service by going to http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/registration/ldap_reg.html or by calling 703-767-8272.

Because contractor IR&D can make a significant contribution to our R&D efforts, I fully expect information in the IR&D database to be reviewed prior to initiating new R&D projects.

Michael W. Wynne
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