

ABOUT EDWARDS - HISTORY

Pushing the Envelope:

Sharing Technology

May-
August
1999
Cover
Stories
Edwards
Home
Page

Who wants to reinvent the wheel?

Knowing what technologies are being developed and are available in the private sector enables defense engineers at Edwards Air Force Base to ponder questions that *haven't* already been solved elsewhere.

Many of these questions could be a matter of national defense.



A young visitor learns about the workings of a T-38 engine, at an Air Force Flight Test Center display designed to share technology information with the public.

Transferring technologies to the private sector and learning about cutting edge technologies within the academic community and private sector is an integral element of the Defense Department's national security mission.

In remarks made in 1995 by former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry to an audience at Stanford University, he stressed the importance of "policy makers to have a keen awareness of technology and what technology can do and cannot do in support of policy."

Technological advantage

To underscore the importance of policy makers understanding the implications of technology, Perry offered this example: During World War II, Adolf Hitler's scientists were telling him that the atomic bomb was not feasible, so he never gave it priority. In contrast, American scientists were giving different advice. "It took a personal letter from Albert Einstein to convince the

president (Franklin D. Roosevelt) to launch a super secret crash program called the Manhattan Project (the U.S. atomic bomb program)," said Perry.

"The world could be very different today if either Roosevelt or Hitler had gotten different advice from their scientists," he added.

It's this kind of scenario that makes the Department of Defense's technology transfer policies so important.

"Today we place greater emphasis on the two-way street between the (DoD) labs and their industry partners," said the Pentagon's Dr. Lance Davis, deputy director of Defense Research and Engineering within the Office of Laboratory Management and Technology Transition.

Davis, who was quoted in June/July 1998 issue of *Technology Business*, added "Our labs can benefit as much from the interaction as do our partners."

User-friendly labs

Toward this goal, "the Pentagon's dual use policies and activities are underway to make the laboratories more user-friendly to their industry partners," he said. (A "laboratory" in technology transfer terms is considered to be DoD facilities that do research, development or engineering, which includes test, logistics and product centers, as well as depots and arsenals.)

So what does this mean in real-life terms?

It means that that someone such as CMSgt. Fletcher Burns, the chief of maintenance for the 412th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base, may be able to invent something useful for the Air Force, then be licensed by the Air Force to develop and market that technology under his own name as a private citizen. In this case, the technology is a [special mount that attaches a French manufacturer's head-up display](#) to the area above the pilot's head on the Speckled Trout aircraft (a modified C-135).

The DoD's emphasis on technology transfer has also resulted in an ongoing cooperative research and development agreement between the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards and the University of Colorado in making groundbreaking [improvements to F-16 simulations using an enhanced computer software model](#).

Sharing resources

At Edwards, the Air Force Flight Test Center Technology Management Office oversees cooperative agreements with educational facilities, private organizations and citizens. In an effort to make the best use of all technology resources, the office sponsors several outreach events each year to educate the public about the availability of DoD partnering opportunities. (For further

information, contact [Ron Mahlum](#) of the Technology Management Office.)

To learn more about the Edwards' efforts to share its technologies, visit the annual [Antelope Valley Technology Fair](#), scheduled for Aug. 27 through Sept. 6, during the Antelope Valley Fair in Lancaster, Calif. The event is sponsored in association with the charter members of the Western Mojave Technology Consortium, which includes Air Force Flight Test Center partners NASA-Dryden Research Center, the Air Force Research Laboratory, Air Force Plant 42, the Antelope Valley Board of Trade and Antelope Valley College.

SHARING TECHNOLOGY Highlights at Edwards	
●	<u>Maintenance Chief receives Air Force License to Market Head-Up Display Mount</u>
●	<u>Air Force, University Partner in Cooperative Agreement</u>
●	<u>Sharing Technology at the Local Community Tech Fair</u>

PREVIOUS ARTICLES		
<u>Edwards Redefines the Limits of Aerospace Technology</u>	<u>Past 'Firsts' make Edwards 'The Right Place' for Testing</u>	<u>F-22 Raptor Front Line Fighter for the 21st Century</u>
<u>Joint Helmet-Mounted Display Pushing Limits in Air Superiority</u>	<u>Zero-Visibility Landings An Aid for Transport Aircraft Pilots</u>	<u>Electric Brakes Tested in Flight for the First Time</u>



Edwards Home About Edwards Base Guide News Products & Services
Environmental Flight Safety FOIA Gallery History Job Opportunities Maps Museum Organizations Tours Weather : Aviation Weather : Local
Contracting Links Publications & Forms R-2508 Air Space Search Site Map

Please read our [Privacy and Security Notice](#)

Air Force Flight Test Center
E-mail comments: [Public Affairs](#)
Last updated: July 29, 2004

Public Affairs
95 ABW/PA
1 S. Rosamond Blvd.
Edwards AFB, CA 93524

Public Affairs: (661) 277-3510
FAX: (661) 277-2732
DSN: 527-3510
Base Operator: (661) 277-1110