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Advancing Technology

Money in its wallet, security on its mind: Technology project links academia, defense and technology sectors

By TIM COFFEY

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Barry Janov's long-term goal is to take his program nationwide.

Designed to take emerging technology from research to market, Janov sees the Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology, a partnership between academia, industry and government, becoming an increasingly popular concept.

And for one vital reason, the program, commonly called CCAT, is focused on technologies used for homeland security.

"On the regrettable side, I think Sept. 11 gave a heightened sense of awareness to all of us that not only is there a threat, but there's a real need for us to prepare and protect ourselves and one of the best ways to do that is by having technology work for us," said Janov, the CCAT program director.

The terrorist attacks will provide the urgency to develop the new technologies and the results will be the value the program provides, he said.

Last week, the program named its first award recipients -- 11 in all. CCAT has a \$5.8 million budget and is funded by the Department of Defense.

Before Sept. 11, "homeland security" was a virtually unknown phrase. Now, it's the buzzword in San Diego's defense and technology sectors.

Senior officers at the U.S. Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command are talking about San Diego as a future research center for such applications and devices.

"This area could be a test bed for homeland security technology," said Rear Adm. Tom Fellin, the recently appointed vice commander of SPAWAR at a defense industry luncheon earlier this month.

Defense companies are hiring or naming executives to lead newly formed business units to design and market domestic security technology. **The Titan Corp.** (NYSE:TTN) named former San Diego mayor Susan Golding to lead the company's new unit in October, for example.

President Bush has even asked for more than \$38 billion to fund homeland security ventures and technology.

Janov certainly believes CCAT can play role in San Diego's emerging sector, but only a complementary part. To lead the development of new technology would require a specific focus on the research aspect. Janov prefers to focus on it all.

The CCAT program is designed to help small or independent scientists refine their technology ideas, develop a prototype, and then market it -- for commercial or military use.

The program is a partnership with the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center, **Orincon International Corp.**, UCSD Connect, San Diego State University and the University California, San Diego.

"We work as a team with each other to move technology," Janov said.

The technology ideas will come from scientists at UCSD or elsewhere. Orincon acts as the technical oversight body that could provide prototype development.

San Diego State's Entrepreneurial Management Center provides information on the marketability of the product, and UCSD Connect acts as the link to the public sector for a close-to-market product.

SPAWAR Systems Center is the government oversight body and the conduit for new technology for the DoD.

Janov said he would seek additional funds if they come available.

"We believe we have a very marketable program," he said.

Yet, even if Bush's homeland security funds are denied, the CCAT program will advance the technologies for crisis management and response, said Anne O'Donnell, CCAT director at the UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering.

"In that way, it will document the contributions that engineers, scientists and San Diego can contribute to homeland defense," she said.