

28 August 2019

# Bridging Innovation Newsletter

[View in your browser](#)[Subscribe to this newsletter](#)

Our MISSION is to bring the nation's greatest minds and most innovative technologies – from inside and outside of MITRE – together to solve the government's hardest challenges.

By combining MITRE's whole-of-government perspective, deep technical expertise, and willingness to collaborate, we can work together to achieve maximum impact for a safer world.

## Success Story

## What did we do?

Legionarius, a technical solutions provider for performance garments in high-risk and combat environments, has a Rapid Reaction Technology Office (RRTO) contract with SOCOM through SOFWERX.

During their time in the 2017 MassChallenge accelerator, MITRE provided support through technical and domain mentors, access to our lab facilities, and through our trusted relationship with the RRTO.



Above: MITRE RRTO and Bridging Innovation representatives with Legionarius and Kiki Mills Johnston of MassChallenge.

## Outcomes

- With the help of MITRE and MassChallenge, Legionarius went from idea to DoD contract in less than 1 year.
- Our technical and domain mentoring supported rapid technical development through conceptual design and sub-component proof-of-concept to de-risk critical functionalities.
- We supported Legionarius in navigating the RRTO process for rapid contracting and introduced them to additional government stakeholders.
- Legionarius is currently under a \$1.5M contract with SOCOM to deliver prototype units of their smart garment system for field testing.

“MITRE provided technical mentorship for electronic hardware design, guidance through RRTO contracting process, and insight into DoD communication and software challenges, which was tremendously important to our early success.”

-- Dr. Alexander Gruentzig, CEO, Legionarius, LLC

## In the News

### AFWERX Spark Collider held in Austin

AFWERX Austin hosted the newly awarded 19.2 SBIR Phase I companies together with venture capital and Air Force stakeholders on 14 - 15 August. The event accelerated the matching of Air Force problems with viable solutions, and put projects on agile execution pathways using the SBIR pipeline. To facilitate the collisions, there were technology showcases, company pitches, rapid prototyping education ...

[Read more](#)

---

## The Power of a Village: Catalyzing Rhode Island's Startup Ecosystem with riHub

14 August, Rhode Island- Looking to the Future: Impact Through Collaboration Entrepreneurship has gained recognition as a major economic driver and growth strategy, with multiple parties—such as leaders from various sectors, governments, corporates, and universities—working to support entrepreneurship in their communities. It takes a village — no one can do this alone. For true success, we need a diverse and ...

[Read more](#)

---

## Air Force targets drones during latest Pitch Day

BURLINGTON, Mass. (AFNS) -- By Benjamin Newell, 66th Air Base Group Public Affairs / Published July 25, 2019 Program Executive Office Digital granted 13 drone technology contracts to innovative companies during a Pitch Day held July 24 at the Northeastern University Innovation Campus in Burlington. The day-long event began with thirteen pitches from businesses, followed by deliberations by Air Force junior ...

[Read more](#)

---

## Techstars Announces \$42 Million Investment

BOULDER, Colo. – July 30, 2019 – Techstars, the worldwide network that helps entrepreneurs succeed, today announced a \$42M investment led by SVB Financial Group, the holding company of Silicon Valley Bank, with additional participation from existing investors including Foundry Group. This funding will accelerate Techstars' growth to help more entrepreneurs succeed through seed-stage accelerators, global startup ecosystem activations, corporate innovation, and ...

[Read more](#)

---

## AFWERX Fusion, MDO Challenge drive collaboration between industry, military, academia

5 August, Las Vegas- The collisions that are common in the private sector are few and far between for Airmen and other military members who are increasingly looking for ways to advance their

branch's capabilities. To better foster a culture of collaboration and innovation within the U.S. Air Force, AFWERX Fusion brought more than 1200 people from business, military, and ...

[Read more](#)

---

## Events

### MassTLC's Tech & Innovation Conference Sept. 18

Hosted by Mass TLC Wednesday September 18th 1130 - 1700 @ Design Center, Drydock Ave, Boston Seaport With new and more sophisticated technologies being developed at such a fast pace, developers, architects, product managers, security professionals, and others in the tech industry must parse out the most effective tools, methods, processes, and team building strategies to be successful. This one-day, ...

[Read more](#)

---

### DEF2019: DEF's Annual National Conference September 27-29

DEF2019 Theme: Engaged & Empowered The conference's theme, "Engaged & Empowered," will guide our formulation of the agenda and topics and unite the essence of the conference, while remaining general enough for the participants to explore many different tangents and facets. It ties closely to our core mission statement (Inspire, Connect, Empower) and the organization's current evolution (referred to as ...

[Read more](#)

---

### Defense TechConnect (DTC) Innovation Summit & Expo October 8-10

Entering its sixth year, the annual Defense TechConnect (DTC) Summit, co-located with the Fall SBIR/STTR Innovation Summit, brings together defense, private industry, federal agency, and academic leadership to accelerate state-of-the-art technology solutions for the warfighter and national security. The DTC supports innovation imperatives in the new National Defense Strategy (NDS) and is a unique platform to reach thousands of public ...

[Read more](#)

---

## Other News

### Collaboration with SciArt Software, Inc. August 2019

In July, MITRE visited the Techstars Starburst Space Accelerator. The program focuses on “the next generation of space technology companies and related frontier technologies”. MITRE networked with several companies including SciArt Software, a startup developing a new finite element analysis and topology optimization engine. SciArt’s software has the potential to accelerate MITRE’s IR&D in applying topology optimization to applications of the MITRE Frequency-Scaled Ultra-Wide Spectrum Element to optimize heat dissipation, electromagnetic interface, structural weight and material, and other factors. After an initial discussion with the startup’s co-founders, Karen Caswelch and Praveen Yadav, on SciArt’s product, Pareto, MITRE has a trial license to evaluate the benefit relative to existing software and will exchange that feedback with SciArt. The improved modeling efficiency could greatly impact the project’s ability to provide MITRE’s sponsors with new, innovative optimization technology across a range of applications.

**Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited. Public Release Case Number 19-2682**

For more information on Bridging Innovation,  
go to [bridge.mitre.org](http://bridge.mitre.org).

[View newsletter in your browser](#)

[Unsubscribe from Bridging Innovation  
newsletter.](#)

Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited. Case Number 19-0995.  
Copyright 2019 The MITRE Corporation. All Rights Reserved.