

## **2012 Department of Defense Systems Engineering Top 5 Program Awards Overview and Submission Instructions**

*Sponsored by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering and the Systems Engineering Division of the National Defense Industrial Association*

The purpose of these awards is to recognize excellence in application of systems engineering (SE) discipline that results in highly successful Department of Defense programs, as assessed based on their 2011 performance.

Winners of this award are recognized for the demonstration of successful implementation of systems engineering best practices resulting in program success.

The award is presented to both the government agency or branch of service and the prime contractor of the programs selected.

### ***Award Application Criteria***

Candidates for this award should complete their own award application documenting their systems engineering self-assessment.

This self-assessment shall consist (at a minimum) of: 1) a description of the program, 2) a description of the program's overall integration of systems engineering, and 3) a series of anecdotal (qualitative and quantitative) descriptions of specific systems engineering approaches applied and benefits received. Quantitative evidence of systems engineering achievement is highly desired in supporting an application for award.

Relevant best practices might include: effective control of the system technical baseline through event-based technical reviews, leveraged use of technical authority and independent subject matter expert (peer) participation in technical reviews, comprehensive linkage of technical baseline products to program management mechanisms (configuration management, earned value management, risk management, etc.), and effective use of total life cycle (including sustainment) technical planning to coordinate and manage a program's technical effort across multiple organizations (across acquirer and supplier domains).

The award, presented to both government and industry, represents the recognition of significant achievement by teams of government and industry personnel. Government and industry are encouraged to collaborate in assembling the application.

Programs will be considered for this award at any point in the programmatic life cycle, and need not be a fully completed program. Successful applicants should have passed

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a sufficient number of key internal milestones such that the impact and benefit of systems engineering strategies on acquisition excellence can be clearly demonstrated.

Program size is not a critical selection criteria, but program size (in dollars) should be indicated in the submitted write-up.

Use additional sheets as necessary, but submittal packages should not exceed 10 pages total and should include no more than one picture or diagram.

### ***Evaluation***

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Engineering within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall assemble an award review board. This board will consist of personnel invited from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics and the Service Acquisition Executive organizations. This board shall review and rank order the applications received based upon the merits of the application self assessments against the criteria described above. Final selection from this rank-ordered list will be made by the DASD, Systems Engineering.

### ***Schedule and Submission of Nominations***

The period for the submission of nominations is April 1–July 1, 2012. Programs should email their nomination package consisting of a completed submission form and self-assessment to Sam Campagna, NDIA, at [scampagna@ndia.org](mailto:scampagna@ndia.org) NO LATER THAN July 1, 2012.

Programs will be notified by August 17th of their selection. Awards will be presented at the annual NDIA Systems Engineering Conference to be held in San Diego, CA, October 22–25, 2012.

**For additional information, contact DASD(SE) at [dasd-se@osd.mil](mailto:dasd-se@osd.mil) or visit the DASD(SE) website (<http://www.acq.osd.mil/se/apr/top5awards.html>).**