



## ASD(A) News

### First DoD Intellectual Property Forum Tackles the Challenging Role of IP in Innovative Acquisitions

December 15, 2023

The Department of Defense (DoD) Intellectual Property (IP) Cadre hosted the inaugural DoD IP Forum on December 6-8, 2023. The event brought together more than 500 professionals from across the DoD acquisition workforce, academia, industry, and government to discuss making the Department and industry innovators better partners when it comes to managing IP challenges, including early IP planning, strategies for DoD lifecycle needs, communication between Government and industry, and negotiation of tailored licenses.



Mr. Richard M. Gray, Director of the Intellectual Property Cadre, set the stage for the forum and discussed the necessary change in mindset, as historically there has been a feeling that IP restricts competition. “Moving forward, there should be the realization that IP *is* the business of technology innovation – it is the foundation of a business relationship that encourages innovation at the front end of development, then rewards the innovator’s risk and effort by providing the return on investment through providing appropriate legal protections and exclusive rights to commercialize that innovative technology,” he said.



The Honorable Nickolas H. Guertin, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, Office of the Secretary of Defense presented the opening keynote.

During the three-day event, speakers covered topics including key takeaways, case studies, and accomplishments from the congressionally directed Pilot Program on IP Evaluations in DoD Acquisitions; perspectives on IP and digital engineering and acquisition tools; insights on how IP valuation impacts pricing and source selections; the evolving landscape of IP-related acquisition regulations; IP strategies and reference architectures; artificial intelligence; enabling Modular Open Systems Approaches through IP (and vice versa); planning for sustainment; small business IP challenges; and the power and pitfalls of negotiating tailored IP licenses throughout DoD acquisitions.

The DoD IP Cadre was stood up in 2019 to lead the coordinated DoD-wide effort to modernize IP policies, culture, and best practices to maximize return on DoD technology investments, reduce program sustainment costs, and better enable delivery of cutting-edge technology advantage to the warfighter at scale, faster.

Understanding that IP should not be treated as merely “a lawyer’s issue”, the DoD is using multi-disciplinary teams of experts and front-line practitioners in program management, engineering, sustainment, contracting, cost, and finance, and legal from across Military Departments, Defense Acquisition University, and many other components to educate the acquisition workforce. The Department encourages industry to consider adopting a similar approach, to improve Government-industry communications and partnering in a long term, competitive, innovative business model.



MOSA Panelists, from left to right: Patrick Bains, Senior Lead Systems Engineer, Booz Allen Hamilton; Allen Dianic, Director, OUSD(R&E) Software Engineering; Kelly Alexander, OUSD(R&E) SE Modernization Engineering Lead; Shane Smith, Principal Software System Engineer, MITRE; Richard Gray, Director, OSD Intellectual Property Cadre; Kelly Kyes, Law & Global Compliance, Boeing IP

The Department of Defense IP Cadre worked with the Acquisition Innovation Research Center (AIRC) to plan the event. For additional information on AIRC, please visit <https://acqirc.org/> Additional information and materials regarding the DoD IP Forum can be found at [www.DoDIPForum.com](http://www.DoDIPForum.com) .

For additional information on the IP Cadre, please visit <https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/ae/ada/ip-cadre.html>