Department of the Navy SBIR Experimentation Cell (DON - SEC)

October 2025

navysbir.com/sec

About DON - SEC

- **Accelerate capability development** by guiding Phase II SBIR/STTR technologies through focused experimentation that maximizes transition success

- Increase government oversight by providing **quantifiable results** through experiment data

Program Goals

- Enable SBIRs to enhance **warfighting, lethality, and readiness** through experimentation

- **Connect** technology to events that maximize opportunities to advance innovations

- **Navigate** experimentation processes to streamline execution and compliance

- **Educate** with informative guidebooks, workshops, and stakeholder collaboration

Experimentation can provide Objective Quality Evidence (OQE) to support transition

Engagement

Two Methods of Contact:

- **Push:** The SBIR is recommended to us by the Program Manager or brought in by a request from the Technical Point of Contact (TPOC).

- **Pull:** The Performer contacts us directly or event sponsor notifies us of their inclusion in an event.

Business Rules:

- **Introduction interview:** Our team meets to determine eligibility and experimentation maturity and then conducts a fact-finding interview to determine objectives and engineering challenges. If contact was a "Pull," a meeting will then be established with PM/TPOC to ensure compliance with government objectives and warfighter gap alignment.

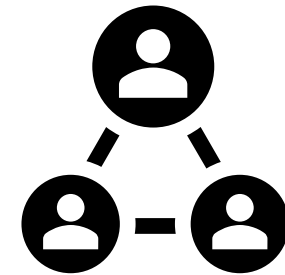**All initiative support will be in cooperation with Program Office and TPOC**

Current Status

✓ DON-SEC is fully funded with NO cost to the performer or Program Management Office (PMO)

✓ DON-SEC does not provide funding, but may be aware of funding impacts

FY25 Performers

- 152 SBIRs were actively supported and engaged

- 44 were selected for 20 events that included Silent Swarm, ANTX Coastal Trident, Trident Warrior, TOEE series, Southern Lightning, JIFX series, TCE, Northern Edge, and Trident Spectre

- 7 SYSCOMs supported, with NAVAIR, ONR, NAVFAC, and MCSC most active

  - Note that some initiatives have multiple outcomes/experimentation opportunities and participated in event serials

Who We Support

Small Businesses
Process Navigation
Mentor, Train, Facilitate
Onsite Event Support

TPOCs/SYSCOMs
Event Awareness
Planning Cycle Support
Objective Quality Evidence

PMOs
Event Awareness
Objective Quality Evidence

Venues
Planning
Process Support
Onsite Execution Support

Opportunities for Naval SBIRs
<u>Warfare Centers and SYSCOMS</u>: Coastal Trident, TOEE, TCE, JIFX
<u>Fleet/NWDC and other Commands</u>: IBP, RIMPAC, Atlantic Alliance
<u>External Agencies and Services</u>: MACH-TB, Evasive Warrior, RDAX

Methods

Guidebooks

- SBIR 101 – Basics of Experimentation (tailored for SBIR community)
- SBIR 102 – Ship Riders' Guide
- SBIR 103 – Installation and Engineering Processes
- SBIR 104 – Experiment Analysis & Reporting
- Vulcan Quick Start User Guide
- Other – Engineering and Operations Process Guides (EPG/OPG)

Facilitation

Lower the threshold for entry and input into experimentation communities

Mentoring

Develop relationships to increase knowledge, awareness, and collaboration opportunities

Training

Promote continuing education through process navigation and interactive Learning Labs demystifying experimentation rigors

Key Differences

Demonstration

Share Info
Already Tried
No Decisional Data
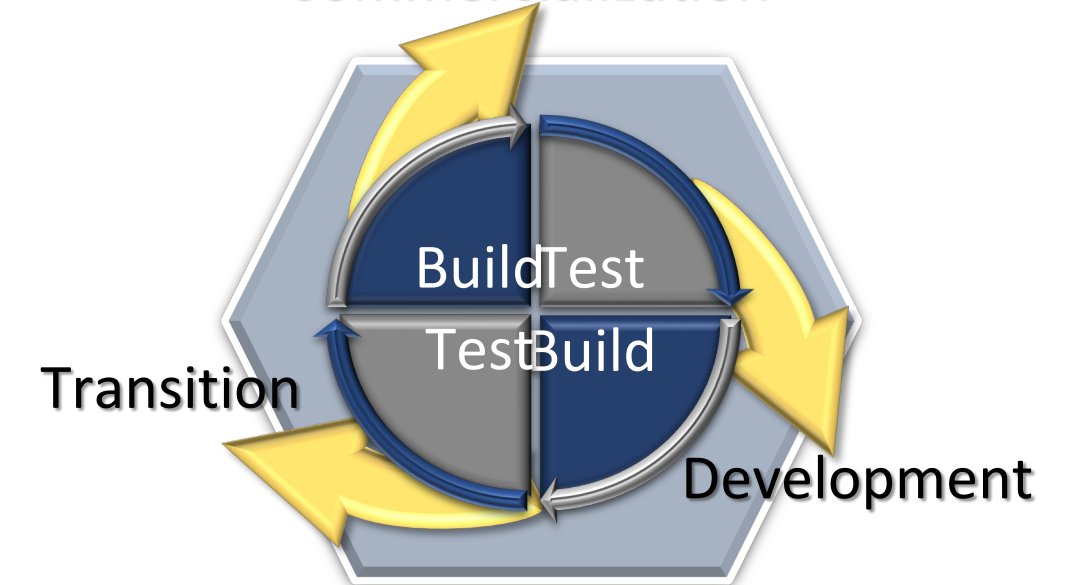
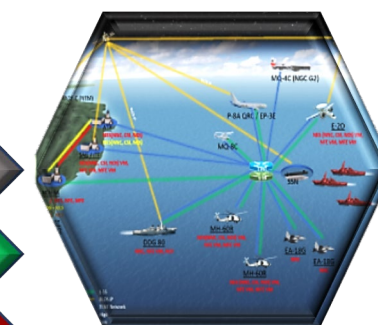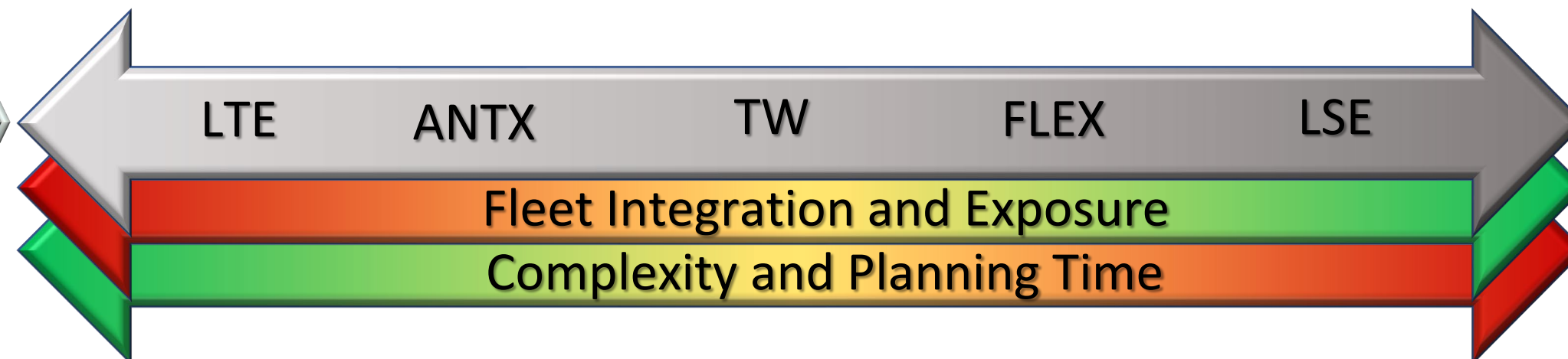**Experimentation**

Gain Knowledge
Explore New Areas
Report

Test & Evaluation

Prove Requirements
Pass / Fail
Report

Commercialization

BuildTest
TestBuild

Transition

Development

Build Test Build

LTE   ANTX   TW   FLEX   LSE

Fleet Integration and Exposure
Complexity and Planning Time
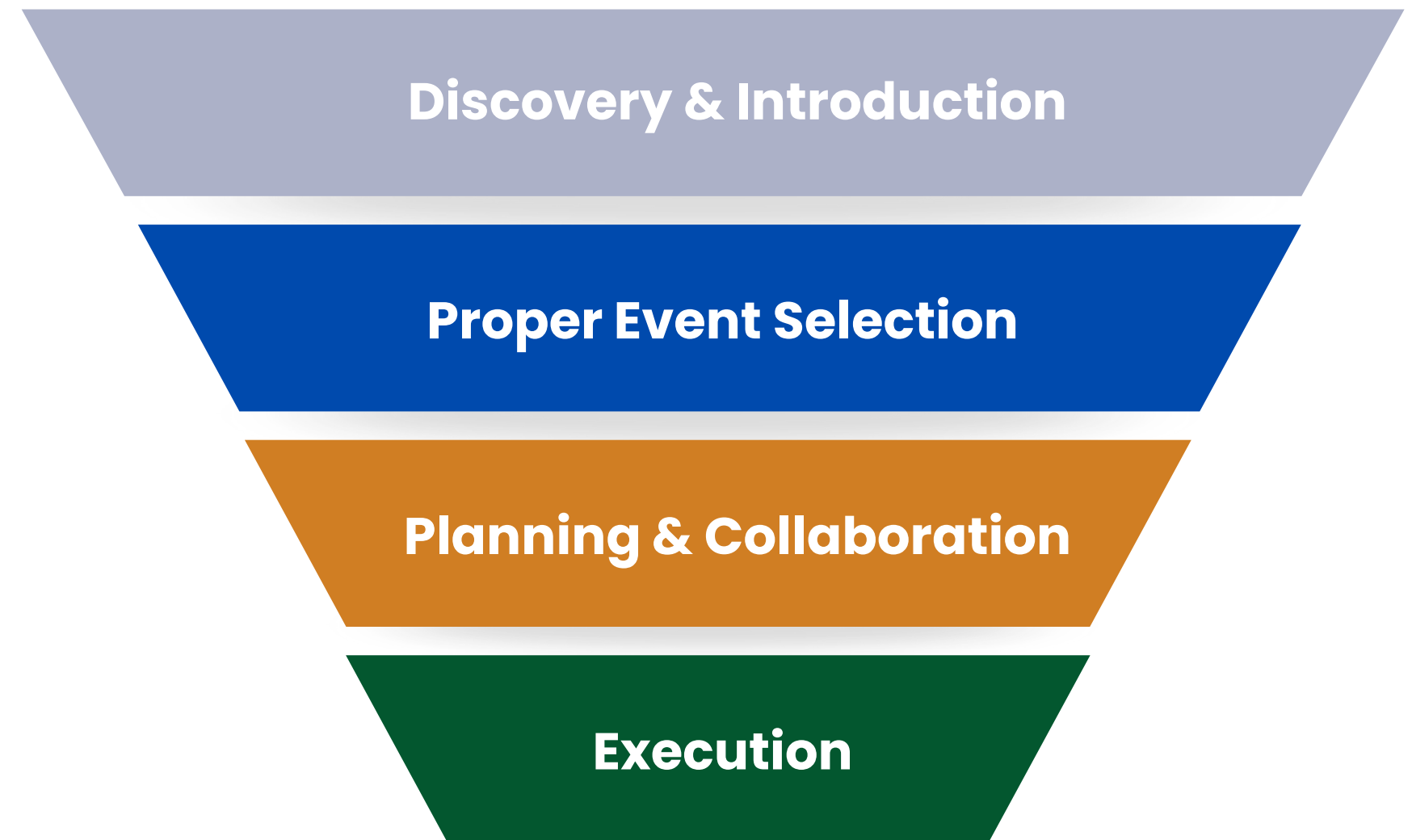
Navigating Naval Experimentation

DON-SEC works to align the below factors in supporting SBIR/STTR performers in planning for and participating in the experimentation events.

- **Cost:** Venue, Logistics, Manning

- **Schedules:** Event, Technology Development, Contract, Operations/Engineering Processes, Stakeholder Coordination

- **Performance:** Technical Assessments, Data Collection, Analysis, Commercialization Potential

Discovery & Introduction

Proper Event Selection

Planning & Collaboration

Execution

Connections | Processes | Venues

Resident Expertise

Experiment Design

- Problem Statement
- Hypothesis Development
- Objective Development
- DOD Architecture Framework (DODAF) Models
- Liaison to event sponsors

Engineering

- Ship Install – SHIPMAIN/NMP processes
- Airworthiness Certification
- Accreditation and Assessment (A&A)
- Mission Readiness Assessment (MRA)
- Application Integration (AI)
- Lithium-Ion battery certifications
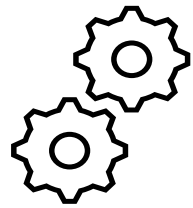- RMMCO processes

Operations

- Air/Water space management
- Spectrum (GPS/EA/Allocation)
- Environmental (PMAP/EIS)
- Unmanned systems/DSD Waivers

Analysis

- Data Collection and Analysis
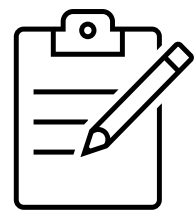- Schedule of Events (SOE)
- Qualitative Analysis/Surveys
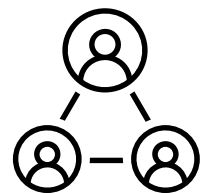- Reporting

Experienced in all phases of Experiment Planning

Effects

⚙️ **SBIR Initiatives become innovative solutions to fit warfighter needs**
Maximize impact, communicate, and cross-pollinate data

📋 **Target premier   technical   experimentation   environments   and venues**
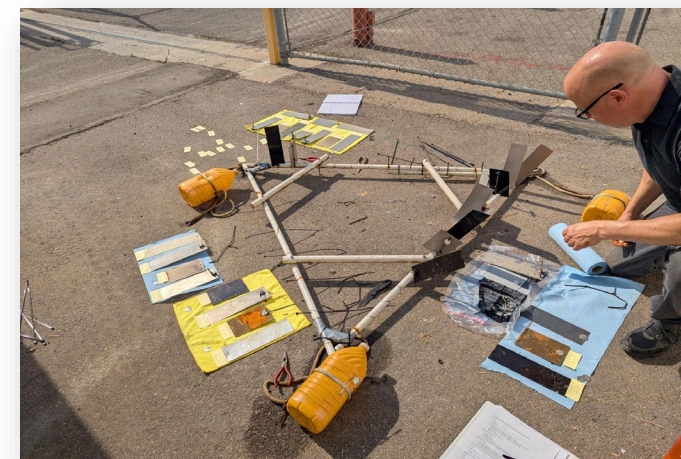Right venue, right event

👥 **"Take the load off" staff and amplify the return investment**
More receptive TPOCs and event sponsors

🤝 **Improve & Enhance**
Do no harm, do not impede efforts

Thank You

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