



Media Advisory



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Industry Leaders Take Center Stage During Ground Vehicle Technology Symposium's Second Day

TROY, Mich. — A shared goal of building the best, most-advanced ground vehicle systems for the Nation's warfighters brought defense industry leaders together in front of a sold-out crowd during the second day of the inaugural National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Michigan Chapter's Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium (GVSETS).

Leaders from major military contractors — including General Dynamics Land Systems, BAE Systems and Lockheed-Martin — took part in a discussion that focused on collaboration and innovation rather than bottom lines. The U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC), the Department of Defense's (DOD's) Ground Systems Integrator, is bringing these companies together with a focus on the Soldier.

TARDEC's National Automotive Center (NAC) Director Paul Skalny moderated the industry panel and reminded everyone what their work was really all about. "Everything we talk about doing is about the Soldier, about the Marine, about the Airman, for whom we really have to make a difference," he exclaimed.

Throughout the session, the group discussed the importance of working with the country's small business community. "Small business is an untapped resource, unencumbered by much of the bureaucratic red tape that large corporations have," explained Dr. Peter Ciriscioli, Chief Technological Officer, BAE Systems. "We need to figure out how to engage people in a way that lets a million brains help us solve our problems."

Later, the conversation moved to the opportunities for collaboration that exist despite apparent conflicts and competitive relationships. "Corporations are in business to make a profit, but sometimes, that must take a backseat to helping the Soldier," said Steve Zink, Vice President of Oshkosh Defense for Oshkosh Corp. "Depending on how these collaborative relationships are structured, there is potential for conflict. But what you have to do is get those issues out of the way at the start, so that when these agreements are worked through, industry and the government know the ground rules as they move forward."

The need for further, faster innovation was also a hot topic. "Innovation is important, as it helps find new ideas and ways of looking at things, whether it is through robotics or through advances in batteries and hybrids to electrify vehicles in the field," said Ciriscioli, "It's easy to innovate, but it's hard to innovate usefully."



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The entire panel was comprised of:

- Paul F. Skalny, NAC Director — Moderator
- Michael D. Bolon — Senior Vice President of Enterprise, Strategy and Chief Technical Officer, General Dynamics Land Systems
- Dr. Peter Ciriscioli — Chief Technological Officer, BAE Systems
- Kevin Duke — Vice President of Engineering, DRS
- John H. Gully — Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Systems and Technology Solutions Business Unit, SAIC
- Jeffrey S. Pridmore — Vice President and Deputy of Technical Operations and Applied Research, Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control
- Glynn Raymer — Vice President, Combat Systems, Raytheon Network Centric Systems
- Steve Zink — Vice President, Oshkosh Defense, Oshkosh Corporation

Earlier in the day, the Department of Energy's Kenneth Howden, Director of the 21st Century Truck Program, discussed advancements in fuel efficiency and environmentally-friendly technologies. "Our coordination with the DOD takes place in a number of areas," he explained. "We are working with a number of people from TARDEC to look at light- and heavy-duty engine technology and what we're doing through USCAR in hybrids and materials. And all that area is open to the DOD as well."

GVSETS continues a very exciting engineering and technology week for TARDEC. On Monday, TARDEC hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the Department of Defense's pioneering Ground Systems Power and Energy Laboratory. When completed, the eight-labs-in-one complex will have testing capabilities unlike any other facility in the world and will serve as the cornerstone for the Army's next generation of advanced ground vehicle power and energy solutions.

GVSETS 2009 wraps up tomorrow (Aug. 20). Planning for GVSETS 2010 commences soon.

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Note: There are two photos available for use with this release. Caption information follows. To download the photos, go to <http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/>.



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TARDEC Vehicles are on display in the parking lot of the Marriott Hotel in Troy, MI, for the NDIA Michigan Chapter GVSETS. TARDEC also demonstrated a simulated reconnaissance mission in the hotel parking lot, complete with robots and a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle. (U.S. Army TARDEC Photo by Liz Carnegie.)

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TARDEC National Automotive Center Director Paul Skalny leads an industry panel discussion during the second day of the inaugural Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium in Troy, MI. Hosted by the National Defense Industrial Association's (NDIA's) Michigan Chapter, the symposium is a unique event that brought together more than 750 people from industry, academia and other government agencies to discuss challenges, collaborate on mutual opportunities and explore different innovative perspectives on advancing or improving technologies. (U.S. Army TARDEC Photo by Liz Carnegie.)

TARDEC is the Nation's Ground Systems Enterprise to ensure U.S. Soldiers continue to be the best-equipped and most lethal, survivable and sustainable fighting force on Earth. For additional information or to schedule an interview, please contact Bill Dowell at (586) 574-5144, william.dowell2@us.army.mil or wdowell@brtrc.com or John Wray at (248) 310-7231 or jwray@brtrc.com.

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