Project Linchpin

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PROJECT MANAGER – INTEL SYSTEMS & ANALYTICS

BHARAT C. PATEL
PRODUCT LEAD – PROJECT LINCHPIN
PEO IEW&S Portfolio – Who We Are

PM Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE)
Develop and field aircraft survivability systems to maximize survivability of Army aircraft without degrading combat mission effectiveness.

PM Cyber & Space (C&S)
Continually develop and deliver foundational and offensive cyber capabilities in support of Army and Joint cyber efforts. Develop, acquire, and field innovative sensor technology to the tactical space layer.

PM Defensive Cyber OPS (DCO)
Continually deliver world-class defensive cyber capability and integrated, innovative and cost-effective systems and services for the global cyber defender.

PM Electronic Warfare & Cyber (EW&C)
Acquire integrated Intel, EW, and Cyber capabilities to provide Spectrum and Cyberspace Superiority to enable freedom of maneuver on the Battlefield.

PM Intel Systems and Analytics (IS&A)
Support the Army’s ISR mission for processing, exploitation, and dissemination (PED) of information and intelligence data across echelons.

PM Terrestrial Sensors (TS)
Provide sensors for enhanced situational awareness and decisive action and Integrated Base Defense.

PD Sensors Aerial Intelligence (SAI)
Develop, acquire, field, and supply life cycle support to modernized, integrated, and tactically relevant aerial ISR sensor and sensor processing payloads.

PD Terrestrial Sensors (TS)
Provide sensors for enhanced situational awareness and decisive action and Integrated Base Defense.

PD Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP)
Enable the Army to rapidly exploit and influence national capabilities and architectures to conduct advanced development and rapid prototyping to enhance and inform Army capabilities and CONOPS to pace the threat.

PEO IEW&S Integration Directorate
Develop system architectures, threat and gap analyses, open standards, S&T plans, and modeling and experimentation across the portfolio in support of the CFTs, AFC, ISR TF, and IEW&S strategic growth.

Sensor And Sensor Processing Systems Across the PEO Portfolio Enable ISR, Intelligence Production, Integrated Base Defense, Force Protection

UNCLASSIFIED
FY24 Plan & Purpose

PROJECT LINCHPIN

ARMY’S FIRST AI FOCUSED PROGRAM OF RECORD!

Organizational Standup

Program Initiation

DoD / IC Partnerships
Department of Defense / Intelligence Community

Governance and Process
AI Policy, Regulations, & Guidance

Pilots and Prototyping

AI Layered Defense Framework

TORC
Traceability Observability / Orchestration
Replaceability automated Consumption

SBIRs
Small Business Innovative Research
Project Linchpin – Focus

Vision:
- Deliver trusted Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities to Army programs

Mission:
- Establish **Standards, Process, and Governance** through a centrally managed program with a decentralized architecture; Maximize Department of Defense and Intelligence Community AI investments to establish a secure and trusted AI Operations Training Environments and AI Services; Create a **collaborative and competitive ecosystem of Industry Partners** for a continuous assessment and integration of best of breed Industry **Products, Solutions, and Services** enabled by a rapid **multi-contracting strategy**.

The Team
- Project Linchpin’s staff includes members from the Army Futures Command’s (AFC) - Artificial Intelligence Integration Center (AI2C), Development Command (DEVCOM) - Army Research Labs (ARL), CECOM Software Engineering Center (SEC), Army Geospatial Center (AGC), and Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C5ISR)
- Enabling Organizations: The Office of the Secretary of Defense - Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Office (OSD-CDAO), Research & Engineering (OSD-R&E) (Trusted AI and Autonomy), National Geospatial Agency (NGA – MAVEN), National Security Agency (NSA), and growing!

Program Status:
- Entered the Adaptive Acquisition Framework’s Software Pathway (AAF SWP) Planning Phase on 01 November 2023
- Draft SW-ICD in progress entering CAMS for worldwide staffing NLT May2024
- Actively Piloting w/Operational Units and Programs to inform enduring AI strategies and the Program
Project Linchpin Market Research Overview

Market Research Approach
- Official Requests for Information (RFIs) via SAM.gov
- “Speed Dating” with Industry: ~25-minute one-on-ones at Army events (NCFT / PEO C3T TEM 9-11, AUSA, etc.)
- “Open-door” Industry engagement policy: Last Friday of every month – 30-minute one-on-ones with potential follow-ons for demos & in-person information exchange sessions
- Social Media: LinkedIn, Facebook
- Leverage OSD-CDAO’s Tradewinds platform

Market Research Highlights
- 4x RFIs released on SAM.gov
  - 289 Total Responses
- Engaged with over 235 unique companies involved in the AI / MLOPs landscape
  - ~63% Small Businesses
  - ~67% Non-traditional Defense Contractors
- Headquartered in 32 different states / provinces
  - ~40% located in the DMV area (~10% MD based)
  - ~20% located in “Tech HUBs” (Silicon Valley, Austin, Seattle)
- Participated in over 550 individual engagements with industry

Bottom Line:
Industry AI Ecosystem Is Growing Everyday
Our Goal: Create a multi-pronged competitive but collaborative Contracting Approach
Artificial Intelligence Operations and Services (AIOps+) includes the industry recognized practices of AI/Machine Learning Operations (AI/MLOPs) and PL AI ecosystem, PL standardized approaches (e.g. AI Risk Framework), PL design principles, and the secure trusted environments and services which enable the delivery of AI solutions to AI-enabled programs. AIOps+ adopts the tenets of AI/MLOPs, a disciplined approach which includes people, tools/technologies, process, and governance to manage the entire lifecycle of an AI/ML model. A lifecycle which spans from initial data collection/holdings, through data labeling, model training, test & evaluation, validation & verification, deployment, and subsequent post-deployment model monitoring and feedback of operational data to improve the next generation of models.
OSD CDAO Alpha-1 / AI Scaffolding Partnership

- **Labeling** – Active; Over 1M+ Labels
- **Consulting Services** – In Progress
- **T&E (JATIC)** – In Progress
- **Data Management Platforms** – In Progress
  - Cloud Storage – **Highly Desired!**
  - Compute – **Highly Desired!**
  - Labeled Data Mesh - Planning
  - Containerization - Planning
  - Acquisition Vehicles - Assessing
  - Policy and Standards - Planning
  - Model Building Tech Stacks - TBD
Questions / Next Steps

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