

NDIA Robotics Division

Advocacy/Policy Committee Report

NDIA's Top Issues for 2007

- Maintain Integrity and Responsiveness of the Acquisition Process
- Promote Defense Workforce Sustainability
- Invest in Defense Industrial Base Technology to Support the Warfighter & Maintain Readiness
- Improve Small Business Utilization
- Prepare for Defense Transformation
- Ensure International Competitiveness of the US Defense Industrial Base

- Ensure a capable, responsive US munitions industrial base
- Improve the SAFETY Act application process
- Increase funding for ground robotics research, development, and engineering
- Improve defense-related manufacturing technologies
- Improve support for aircraft survivability technologies
- Focus on survivability of weapon systems and people against evolving threats

“Robotics technology has the potential to achieve for warfighters in the next 30 years what information technology has achieved for them in the past 30. Robots that are agile and autonomous are well-suited for jobs that are dull, dirty, and dangerous.

The awakenings of the military to the possibilities offered by robotics has resulted in an explosion of potential applications, many of which are currently under development or undergoing experimentation. An efficacious development process will ensure that limited funding is always applied in a manner that will achieve a balance of both near and long term results.”

Recommendations

- Support appropriate allocation of funds and assignment of priorities for the Joint Ground Robotics Enterprise (JGRE) to enable accelerated development and fielding of mature robotics enablers
- Advocate cross-service applications of common robotics technologies

NDIA Government Policy Advisory & Legislative Information Divisions

Government Policy Advisory Division (GPAD)

GPAD is the policy integrating mechanism of the association comprising representatives of NDIA's national board of directors, other division chairs, as well as chapter presidents. Together they assist in the policy agenda development process as well as the educational awareness process. The mission of the Government Policy department is to ensure the continued existence of a viable, internationally competitive national technology and industrial base, strengthening the government-industry partnership through dialogue and interaction between the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Government Policy entails three primary roles:

- Advocacy (legislative, regulatory, and judicial)
- Information/Education (Issue Briefs/Alerts, studies/analyses, hearing summaries, and symposia/seminars)
- Interactive Communication/Dialogue (members network, homepage, and survey/reports)

Legislative Information Division

The division contributes to the successful execution of the policy approved by the Executive Committee, which permits NDIA to take positions and express its views on legislative matters of interest and concern to its members. The primary substantive approach to legislative activity on the part of the Association is through testimony before the committees of Congress. When requested, testimony is presented to committees of Congress and NDIA positions are furnished to individual members of Congress and their professional staffs.

The purpose of the Legislative Information Division (LID) as stated in its charter is:

- To provide NDIA members access to key government and industry officials.
- To identify, for the mutual benefit of NDIA and the Division, items of legislative information in the national security area of significant interest to the NDIA membership.
- To monitor defense and technology related legislation and select NDIA high interest areas for highlighting to the NDIA leadership.
- To provide information to NDIA membership regarding recent legislative developments of importance.

Advocacy/Policy Committee

Mission Statement

“Support the NDIA Robotics Division mission by strengthening the government – agile robotics industry partnership through direct dialogue and interaction with Congress and the Executive Branch and coordination with the NDIA Legislative Information and Government Policy Advisory divisions.”

Advocacy/Policy Committee

Proposed Objectives & Provisional Milestones

- Form and launch a Congressional Caucus on Robotics by March, 2007 and help organize a kick-off event by June, 2007
- Develop an efficient process for providing vetted industry input and feedback to the JGRE (and potentially other DoD organizations) in regards to proposed policies, required reports, and other activities by June, 2007
- Organize and build an initial data base of key Congressional, DoD, and other department points of contact by September, 2007
 - Work with Communications Committee to devise and execute an appropriate means for electronically communicating key developments in unmanned systems to contacts in the data base on a periodic basis
- Develop the means to monitor and provide information to the division members regarding defense robotics related legislation and other Congressional activities by June, 2007
- Develop the means to articulate and document Robotics Division positions on key defense robotics issues and furnish such positions to individual members of Congress and their professional staffs by September, 2007

Advocacy/Policy Committee

Near Term Action Plan

- Congressional Caucus
 - Finalize formation
 - Solicit Congressional support through NDIA Robotics Division and NCDR members
 - Organize an initial, kick-off event
- Industry Feedback
 - Meet with Ellen Purdy, NDIA and Robotics Division leadership, and other committees to initiate efforts to devise an efficient process for soliciting and vetting industry feedback on various issues
- POC Data Base
 - Meet with NDIA and Robotics Division leadership and communications committee to determine the effort, value, and feasibility of developing and maintaining a key POC data base and regularly communicating to it
- Congressional Relations
 - Meet with Peter Steffes, NDIA VP of Government Policy to understand how Robotics Division Advocacy/Policy Committee can coordinate with NDIA GPAD and LID divisions

Advocacy/Policy Committee Organization

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