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JOINT LETTER

From: Director, Surface Warfare
Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command
Commander, Naval Surface Forces

Subj: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SURFACE SHIP TECHNOLOGY PROCESS

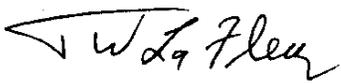
Encl: (1) SURFACE SHIP TECHNOLOGY (SURFTECH) CHARTER

1. The pace of technology development, expanding Fleet requirements in response to evolving threats, and the realities of budgetary constraints require that we maximize the utility of every dollar spent. This applies to research and development (R&D) as well as procurement and operations. In response to these pressures, and to facilitate an integrated surface ship community investment strategy, we are establishing the Surface Ship Technology Process (SURFTECH).

2. The enclosure provides the charter for SURFTECH outlining its mission, organization and objectives. The charter takes effect immediately upon signature with the expectation that the first coordinated recommendations will be available in December 2002.


T. J. WILSON
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SURFACE SHIP TECHNOLOGY (SURFTECH) CHARTER

PURPOSE

This Charter establishes the mission, organization and objectives of SURFTECH.

BACKGROUND

The accelerating pace of technology development necessitates a more focused approach to technology development and transition to meet warfighting requirements. The technology transition process must change from one that is cyclical and keyed to the production of periodic classes of ships to one that is active and continuous. A method of prioritizing technology investments across the various surface warfare mission areas and one that supports an overall surface warfare investment strategy is needed to meet surface warfare strategic goals.

MISSION

The SURFTECH process consists of an organization and set of supporting business processes that provides a forum for addressing the research and development (R&D) needs of the Surface Navy. It will serve to strengthen communications and cooperation between the Warfighter, Resource Sponsors, NAVSEA leadership, Science and Technology (S&T) and R&D activities, Program Executive Offices, and Program Managers.

The principal goal of SURFTECH is to develop a coordinated, integrated Surface Navy Technology Plan (SNTTP) that is coherent, defensible and focused on the needs of the Surface Fleet. SURFTECH and its supporting processes will produce a recommended R&D investment strategy that integrates, aligns and prioritizes R&D investments to meet Surface Warfare strategic goals. This plan will consider the needs of existing acquisition programs and in-service platforms as well as future desired capabilities. It will be time-phased with R&D initiatives sequenced based on technological maturity, applicability and priority of mission need. This plan also serves as means of improving coordination and leveraging of S&T investments.

The R&D investment strategy will be provided annually for consideration and resourcing by appropriate sponsors. Presentation and delivery of the investment strategy will

support the Planning, Programming and Budgeting System (PPBS) process.

ORGANIZATION

SURFTECH will be composed of an integrated product team, working groups and a dedicated NAVSEA Office working under the joint oversight of Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), the Commander Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYS COM), and the Commander Naval Surface Forces (COMNAVSURFOR). In order to ensure SURFTECH R&D investment priorities recommendations reflect Fleet and senior SWO leadership priorities, final approval of those recommendations will be made with the consent of COMNAVSURFOR and vetted through the Surface Warfare Commanders Conference members. SURFTECH will rely upon resources from within the existing DoD structure to accomplish its mission.

A Flag-Chaired Integrated Product Team (FCIPT) will direct the SURFTECH process. OPNAV N76E, NAVSEA 53, and Deputy, COMNAVSURFOR (COMNAVSURFLANT) will serve as the co-chairs. The co-chairs will request concerned organizations such as the Program Executive Offices, ASN(RDA), Systems Commands, OPNAV, ONR, DARPA, or others to appoint Flag Officer and/or Senior Executive Service members to the FCIPT.

Various working groups will support the FCIPT. The composition of these working groups and their hierarchal relationship will be delineated in a SURFTECH Management Plan that will be approved by the co-chairs of the FCIPT.

Working Group members will be highly qualified, Federal employees (military or civilian) who are subject-matter experts in their respective fields. Participants from the defense contractor community, academia and other non-Federal entities are also encouraged to provide input to the FCIPT and the various working groups.

A small, dedicated office will be established in NAVSEA and serve as the central focal point for SURFTECH. This office will provide management, coordination and support to SURFTECH.

OBJECTIVES

The scope of SURFTECH presents a formidable challenge due to the diversity and large number of organizations, programs, mission areas and surface platforms involved. It will require

a dedicated and cohesive effort by numerous individuals and organizations. To enhance SURFTECH mission effectiveness, the following objectives are provided:

- a. Define and document the process by which the Fleet will articulate requirements into the remainder of the SURFTECH process.
- b. Develop a process for assessing and prioritizing research and development initiatives.
- c. Align technology investment with Fleet required capabilities and identify technology shortfalls.
- d. Provide an integrated Surface Warfare R&D investment plan and provide recommendations to CNO, CNR, and other sponsors on an annual basis.
- e. Identify: critical lagging technologies for allocation of resources; promising long-term advanced technologies; concepts with promise to have significant impact on the performance or affordability of Naval systems; and the technology needs for the Surface Navy community.
- f. Provide overarching research and development goals, objectives and priorities to R&D activities, academia and industry.
- g. Conduct S&T and R&D technology assessments and analyses that quantify technology payoffs and support prioritization of the Surface Navy technology initiatives.
- h. Improve the coordination and communication between S&T and R&D activities, PEOs, Program Managers, Resource Sponsors, Warfighters and SUBTECH to leverage and maximize synergy of efforts.
- i. Support identification of strategic concepts and goals for the Surface Navy.
- j. Provide advocacy for the Surface Navy technology program.

Subj: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SURFACE SHIP TECHNOLOGY PROCESS

Distribution:

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