

2024 COUNTER WMD INNOVATION CHALLENGE

JANUARY-JUNE 2024

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Countering WMD Consortium (CWMD) and ATI partnered with TechConnect in order to find innovators interested in supporting national defense efforts to combat weapons of mass destruction and with the technical capabilities to make a difference. Areas of interest included:

PROTECTION: Self detoxification, CB suits, hoods/masks, chemical resistance materials, rope & fabrics, portable patient transport, isolation/quarantine systems, decontamination systems, etc.

PREVENTION (EB/IEW): CBRN Situational awareness/response through Software, VR, sensors, command/control systems, wearables, handhelds, sequencing systems, communication systems, etc.

DETECTION: Indicator technologies for vapor/aerosol hazards, wearable sensors, sensor systems, autonomous/robotic platforms, etc.

As a way of measuring success, the Consortium hoped to gain new members who, by joining would be able to engage with requests for solutions from the federal government; branding and awareness; and access to nontraditional innovators who may not otherwise have known about the Consortium and would not necessarily have access to the federal customer.

OUTCOME & RESULTS

We launched an open call in early February and recruited innovator applications through late March. In that time, we hosted an informational webinar with the consortium to highlight best practices for the application process, clarify scope, and answer questions from potential respondents. We were pleased to receive far more quality submissions than we could convert into finalists. Following a review period, TechConnect made recommendations to the Consortium client who did a secondary review and ultimately confirmed TechConnect's finalist placements. On site at TechConnect World Innovation Conference, each finalist pitched for five minutes and responded to two minutes of Q&A from a group of judges who included:

Jess Collins, InterFuze
Destry Grogan, JRAD
Jeff Lesho, Defense Architecture Systems, Inc.
Richard Spencer, ANSER

Judges named these winners:

First place for a \$25,000 award: **University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine**

Second place for a \$15,000 award: **SteriO3 LLC**

Third place for a \$10,000 award: **Luna Labs USA LLC**

" This is my third year working on Challenge programs with TechConnect, and there's a reason I keep coming back! TechConnect's management of the Counter WMD Innovation Challenge was exemplary. They delivered high-quality submissions, attracted new members, and facilitated connections to nontraditional startups all while ensuring a smooth and effortless process for us. "

- **Dr. Mike Stebbins**
Senior Vice President for ATI,
lead for their Medical and
Threat Countermeasures
Division and Executive
Director of CWMD

20
U.S. STATES

\$50,000
IN AWARDS

3
WINNERS

48%
PROTOTYPE
DEVELOPMENT
STATUS

89%
INTEREST IN
CONSORTIUM
MEMBERSHIP

61
APPLICANTS

21%
TRL 4

43%
DETECTION
FOCUS

9
COUNTRIES

77%
NONTRADITIONAL

15
FINALISTS

59%
STARTUP

" My experience participating in the Counter WMD Innovation Challenge was extremely positive. In addition to getting our device in front of a new audience and an expert panel of judges, the opportunity for collaboration during this meeting was outstanding. I am reaching out to both the second and third place winners to discuss using their technology to decon EMS-PROTECT and potentially integrating the novel gloves into ISOVAC's (our manufacturing partner's predicate device to EMS-PROTECT) CAPSULES patient containment unit. "

- **Anne Adema**
Assistant Professor of
Pediatrics, University of
Colorado Anschutz Medical
Campus School of Medicine