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Introduction

These are the proceedings of the twenty first Open Architecture/Open Business Model Net-centric Systems and Defense Transformation conference. The papers presented at the conference strongly reflected the inexorable trend towards Open Architecture/Open Business Model acquisition patterns to provide the government Better Buying Power (BBP). The conference included the following joint sessions:

1. Self-organizing Collaborative Unmanned ISR Teams, held jointly with the Unmanned Systems Technology conference (SPIE volume 9837)
2. Micro Autonomous Systems Technology, held jointly with the Micro-and Nanotechnology Sensors, Systems, and Applications conference (SPIE volume 9836)

The conference included a special session on Affordability Considerations in Military Systems; as well as an invited paper [9849-6] by chief technology officer Mr. Jeffrey Eggers of the United States Air Force.

Looking ahead we expect Net-centric systems to increasingly focus on Open Architectures (OA) and Open Business Models (OBM). Such OA/OBM systems seek to mimic the successful PC industry and hold the promise to dramatically reduce the acquisition and life cycle costs of military systems, and tremendously accelerate the rate of technology refresh in military systems.

It was gratifying to see the high level of audience interest in this conference. Particularly gratifying was the fact that this conference has resulted in the "spin-off" of several new conferences at SPIE Defense + Commercial Sensing. My sincere thanks to the distinguished invited speakers, authors, attendees, and to my associates on the program committee for another successful conference.

Raja Suresh