



## *National Security Innovation Competition 2012 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*

Questions regarding eligibility, please submit to [rscott@nhdf.org](mailto:rscott@nhdf.org).

### Eligibility Criteria

#### *Team composition*

Full-time undergraduate or graduate students at any US or Canadian college or university, including students who have graduated in the six months prior to April 27, 2012 are eligible to apply. Each institution may sponsor as many undergraduate and graduate teams as desired. Students must have contributed significantly to the innovative technology or concept that is entered. Interdisciplinary teams are encouraged, including teams across business and technical schools. Each team must have a faculty member as a team advisor.

#### *Technology*

To fulfill the spirit and intent of this National Security Innovation Competition, the technology or concept must have application to solving a homeland security or defense problem or issue. The entry must be the original idea and work product of the student/advisor team, and must not have been (1) made available to the public as a commercial product or process or (2) currently be licensed to any company. If the technology was previously entered into a National Security Innovation Competition, it can be entered again, provided it is a continuation of previous research at the same University, the current team of students and advisor must have achieved significant advances in the technology, and the technology cannot have won any of the top three awards at a NSIC competition.

### Competition Process

#### *Application To Compete*

The Application to Compete must be completed and submitted by **January 27, 2012** (Visit [www.NHDF.org](http://www.NHDF.org) to download the 2012 Application. The Application will include a list of Team Leaders (student and faculty advisor), a Technology Description and a signed certification of eligibility.

#### *Preliminary Round*

Once NHDF receives your Application to Compete, you will receive an invitation to submit a Preliminary Round Written Submission. This Written Submission will be no longer than five pages including any figures or pictures and will be submitted by **February 24, 2012**. This submission should include, among other items characterized in the grading criteria, the status of Intellectual Property Protection, the status of testing and simulation of the concept and current/previous funding sources.

### ***Final Round***

Preliminary Round entries will be judged and the FINAL ROUND Teams will be identified and invited to present their innovative research before a panel of judges in Colorado Springs on April 27, 2012. Finalists will be notified of their acceptance and other details not later than March 30, 2012.

The Final Round will be primarily an oral presentation, traditionally using Power Point as a presentation aid. Teams are required to submit a one page Executive Summary and provide an e-mailed Electronic Presentation Board which the competition will print for the competition day. Each team will have 15 minutes to present and 10 minutes of Q&A. Judges will consist of a national panel of government and national security industry executives with experience in research & development, operations, marketing, finance, and strategy. Students will be judged based on their presentation and the Executive Summary.

### ***Judging Criteria***

The criteria for both the Preliminary and the Final Round will be:

1. **Technical Analysis (40 points):**  
Described a truly unique and appropriate solution (conceptual or technological) to an existing or emerging national security problem.
2. **Implementation Readiness Analysis (30 points):**
  - a. Demonstrated an understanding of the operational environment need (e.g., commercial market, policy domain, etc.), key segments, and potential or probable impact.
  - b. Demonstrated an understanding of alternatives, major trends/patterns, and forces that affect the operating environment (e.g., industry, population segment, etc.) and why the solution is appropriate/justified.
3. **Recommendations (20 points):**  
Described a reasonable action plan of required next steps (e.g., phasing, cost, funds required) to pursue this opportunity.
4. **Presentation Skills (10 points):**
  - a. For written and oral presentations: Materials presented in clear, concise, and logical form;
  - b. For oral presentation: Conveyed confidence, enthusiasm, and professionalism; and responsive to evaluator (i.e., final round judges) questions.

### ***Prizes***

Scholarships will be made to the top three teams in the amounts of:

First Prize – Not Less Than \$10,000  
Second Prize - Not Less Than \$5,000  
Third Prize - Not Less Than \$2,500

Universities may accept prize monies as research funds or designate them to personal scholarships or to charities.

## Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

The National Security Innovation Competition requires participants to present potential Intellectual Property to a wide audience of people who are not obligated to keep the information confidential. It is suggested that participants withhold proprietary details from their technical presentations. U.S. inventors have a one year grace period after the first public disclosure. U.S. patent rights are lost one year after the public disclosure. International patent rights for most countries are lost immediately upon public disclosure. In order to impact patent rights, the disclosure must be *enabling*—that is, it must teach someone "of ordinary skill in the art" how to actually duplicate the invention without undue experimentation. Participants are encouraged to seek legal counsel for advice on intellectual property that should be protected prior to entering the competition.

*All submissions will be submitted by e-mail to [Dr. Ronald J. Scott](#), Competition Director, or faxed to 719-577-9012 (attn: NSIC Competition Director) by the deadlines indicated.*