THE FORUM FOR CANADA'S SECURITY AND DEFENCE COMMUNITY

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PREPARING FOR THE UNPREDICTABLE

CEFCOM commander LGen Stuart Beare

CALLING FOR A DEFENCE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

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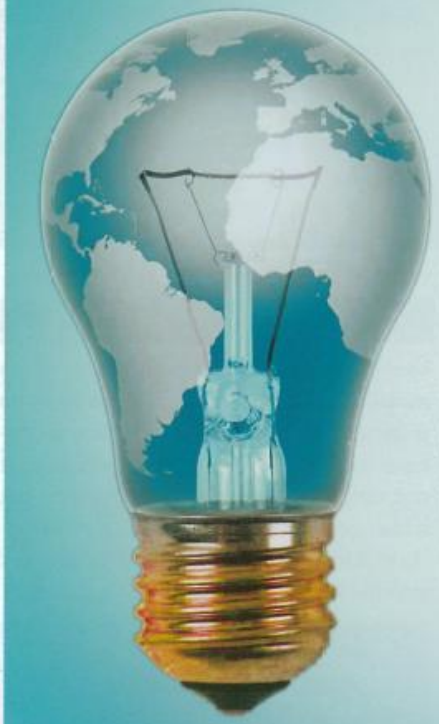
Cicada

CICADA SECURITY TECHNOLOGY

Security system for laptop computers

Imagine giving computers the wherewithal to detect and protect themselves from attempted theft. That's the goal of the Cicada security system. It monitors the computer for movement or environmental changes. When certain user-defined triggers are set off (an unplugged network connection, a power disconnection, insertion of a USB drive, etc.), the system emits a high-pitched and loud alarm alerting anyone within earshot of the attempted theft or modification. It also locks the device, prohibiting unauthorized access to data. Cicada can send an alert to the user's mobile phone or email address. Company founder Ryk Edelstein explains that the system would help safeguard both the computers and any stored or accessible information in theatre. If a military location is attacked and users have to leave their workstations, Cicada effectively ensures that agents of opposing forces aren't able to access information on the PCs. "The moment the computer is tripped the information stored on it or the information it has access to is instantly protected," Edelstein says. "This is a level of threat that has never been addressed with any active security product to date." Cicada is working with computer chip maker Intel to integrate Cicada into the hardware-based security features of Intel microprocessors and chip sets.



CICP: Procure, test and evaluate

The Canadian Innovation Commercialization Program began life in 2010 as a Public Works and Government Services administered two-year pilot project. With a new commitment in the 2012 Budget of $95 million over three years, plus $40 million per year thereafter, the CICP will help government become a first user of Canadian technology.

The program allows participating departments to procure, test and evaluate Canadian goods and services that are not currently available in the marketplace. Over 710 proposals have been submitted since the program began through two rounds of Calls for Proposals (CFP). PWGSC says feedback "suggests that demand exceeds the resources available through the program" and key stakeholders see the program as "filling a critical gap in Canada's innovation strategy."

Through outreach and a CFP, posted on the government's electronic tendering service, CICP seeks technologies in the late stages of R&D, between Technology Readiness Levels 7 and 9. Technologies that qualify are ranked on three primary criteria: the level of advancement over current state-of-the-art technology, commercialization strategy of the company, and quality of the proposed testing plan.

Proposals are evaluated by the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program and validated by an Innovation Selection Committee, currently comprised of mostly private sector experts. Following validation, PWGSC selects the highest ranked proposals based on available funding for that CFP. Bidders are then pre-qualified and can seek out departments to test, evaluate, and provide critical feedback on the innovation.