

Dear Colleague,

The Colorado Homeland Defense Alliance (CHDA) will host the fifth annual National Security Innovation Competition on April 29, 2011 in Colorado Springs. The purpose of this competition is to stimulate interest by college students in national security-related innovations and expose novel concepts and technologies to a broad audience including industry, academic, and government organizations involved in aerospace, defense, security, and first responder activities. Unlike traditional business plan competitions, the goal is *not* for students to demonstrate how they will exploit the opportunity. Instead, students should apply critical analytical skills to determine *why* a new concept or technology has the potential to meet an identifiable national security need. At least one student member of the team must have been actively involved in the development of the concept or technology being presented. The concept or technology must not currently be licensed to any business.

This Competition will draw the best minds from academia. We are looking for cutting-edge ideas that advance security and also have commercial applications. Our judges represent a cross section of disciplines from industry and government.

Scholarship prizes will be awarded to the top three finalists.

Beyond winning the competition, the CHDA strives to facilitate additional funding for needed concept and technology research and development (R&D). Many of our competitors are already working projects consistent with the R&D needs of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA). Or, perhaps some of the research addresses emerging challenges to national and homeland security such as those discussed in *The Joint Operating Environment 2010 (JOE 2010)* such as demographics, globalization, economics, water, food, energy, pandemics, space, and cyber. The *JOE 2010* is available at www.jfcom.mil/newslink/storyarchive/2010/JOE_2010_o.pdf.

For more detail on R&D portfolios at DARPA and HSARPA, see <http://www.darpa.mil/offices.html>, <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=agency&mode=form&tab=notices&id=048f413b4c64abc6c0afbc36b09f099d>, and http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/High_Priority_Technology_Needs.pdf.

We have provided the attached poster for display in appropriate locations on campus.

For more information please visit the CHDA at www.coloradohda.org. Or contact me directly at rscott@coloradohda.org or (719) 685-7877.

Sincerely,

Ron

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National Security Innovation Competition Program Director

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