

Boeing seeks innovation by reaching out to technology-savvy small businesses



Boeing's efforts to increase its partnerships with small businesses and research-driven universities recently led to the first Small Business Technology Transfer Summit (STTR), held at California State University, Los Angeles, on

Feb.9.

Collaborating with the Small Business Development Center, Boeing brought participants together to help establish long-term relationships for future opportunities between small businesses

and academic institutions. This was the first STTR event specifically focused on four adjacent technologies of cyber security systems, unmanned systems, energy/environment and C4ISR, which includes command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

The event's featured speakers included Dr. Heidi Ziegler, small business lead for BDS Space & Intelligence Systems; Carl Carerra, chief engineer, Cyber & Information Solutions; Shelley Sebby, manager, Supply Chain Management, Renewable Energy Solutions; and George Windsor, system engineer, Unmanned Systems.

Small businesses were provided with information on Boeing's technology needs in these adjacent markets. In turn, companies presented their capabilities to Boeing and university representatives in their respective technology domains.

Joan Robinson-Berry, director of Small/Diverse Business & Strategic Alliances and Small Business liaison officer for BDS, provided opening remarks. "Our future is dependent upon innovation," she said, "and we are relying heavily on our small-business supply base to contribute to the acceleration of our technology solutions."

The STTR program provides up to \$850,000 in early stage research and development funding directly to the small businesses working cooperatively with researchers at universities and other research institutions.

Cutline: Small Business/External Relations Interface Program Manager Al Austin; Director of Small/Diverse Business & Strategic Alliances Joan Robinson-Berry; Supply Chain Management, Renewable Energy Solutions Manager Shelley Sebby; Small Business Liaison Officer Raul Alvarado and Supplier Diversity Specialist Fred Carter were among the Boeing participants who attended the summit.