OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OFFICES

SUBJECT: 2004 U.S. GOVERNMENT'S TOP 5 PROGRAMS AWARDS

As the Department of Defense's Executive Agent for Systems Engineering and sponsor for activities aimed at improving acquisition, I am pleased to announce the search for the 2004 U.S. Government's Top 5 Programs, formerly the Top 5 Software Quality Projects.

Many organizations are employing processes and practices that result in the successful delivery of programs with significant software content to the United States government. Looking at past winners of this award, it is apparent that successful programs have used well-defined and proven processes and practices to develop, manage, and integrate software into deliverable systems. Beginning in 2004, this award intends to identify successful programs and highlight their efforts.

One significant change to the award structure this year, beyond extending the criteria from just software quality performance to total program performance, is the recognition of both the U.S. government project office and the industry prime contractor that participated in the system development, in recognition that successful programs are indeed government/industry team efforts. To facilitate the joint award process, we now have a co-sponsor of this prestigious award, the National Defense Industrial Association Systems Engineering Division.

CrossTalk will announce the Top 5 government and industry winners in the May 2005 issue, and winners will receive their awards at the 2005 Systems & Software Technology Conference. The winning projects will then be highlighted in a series of articles in *CrossTalk*'s July 2005 issue.

Nomination forms and additional information on the U. S. Government's Top 5 Programs awards can be found at:
http://www.ndia.org, click on Divisions, then Systems Engineering.

Access to articles discussing previous winners can be found at:
http://www.stsc.hill.af.mil/top5projects

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