

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1515

To facilitate access to university technical expertise in support of Department of Defense missions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To facilitate access to university technical expertise in support of Department of Defense missions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expand and Strength-
5 en Defense Network of Partners Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. MECHANISMS FOR EXPEDITED ACCESS TO TECH-**
2 **NICAL TALENT AND EXPERTISE AT ACA-**
3 **DEMIC INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT DEPART-**
4 **MENT OF DEFENSE MISSIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall es-
6 tablish one or more multi-institution task order contracts,
7 consortia, cooperative agreements, or other arrangements
8 to facilitate expedited access to university technical exper-
9 tise in support of Department of Defense missions in the
10 areas specified in subsection (e). The Secretary may use
11 this arrangement to fund technical analyses and other en-
12 gineering support as required to address acquisition and
13 operational challenges, including support for classified
14 programs and activities. The Secretary shall ensure that
15 work under task orders awarded through the arrangement
16 is performed primarily by the designated university per-
17 former.

18 (b) LIMITATION.—The arrangement established
19 under subsection (a) may not be used to fund research
20 programs that can be executed through other Department
21 of Defense basic research activities.

22 (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENT OF
23 DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.—The arrangement may be made
24 in coordination with other Department of Defense activi-
25 ties, including federally funded research and development
26 centers (FFRDCs), university affiliated research centers

1 (UARCs), and Defense laboratories and test centers, for
2 purposes of providing technical expertise and reducing
3 costs and duplicative efforts.

4 (d) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Secretary
5 shall establish and implement policies and procedures to
6 govern—

7 (1) selection of participants in the arrangement;

8 (2) the awarding of task orders under the ar-
9 rangement;

10 (3) maximum award size for tasks under the
11 arrangement;

12 (4) the appropriate use of competitive awards
13 and sole source awards under the arrangement; and

14 (5) technical areas under the arrangement.

15 (e) MISSION AREAS.—The Secretary may establish
16 the arrangement in any of the following technical areas:

17 (1) Cybersecurity.

18 (2) Air and ground vehicles.

19 (3) Shipbuilding.

20 (4) Explosives detection.

21 (5) Modeling and simulation.

22 (6) Undersea warfare.

23 (7) Trusted microelectronics.

24 (8) Unmanned systems.

- 1 (9) Intelligence/Surveillance/Reconnaissance
- 2 (ISR) photonics and sensors.
- 3 (10) Directed energy.
- 4 (11) Energy, power, and propulsion.
- 5 (12) Advanced materials.
- 6 (13) Other areas as designated by the Sec-
- 7 retary.

