

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

June 14, 2018

Tracy Frost
Director, DoD Manufacturing Technology
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC, 20301

Dear Ms. Frost:

As you know, Congress has long been concerned about the Department of Defense's access to electronic components that are both robust and trusted. We have reiterated that concern in the recent Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-141), specifically directing the Department to report on "the testing protocols that the Department is utilizing to ensure current microelectronics have achieved security assurance."

I remain concerned about our domestic capacity to manufacture the next generation of integrated electronic devices. We need to push the envelope on performance through the use of novel materials, and we need to develop better techniques for securing these devices and systems. Hardening the microelectronics that drive our communications and navigations systems is absolutely critical to counter the growing Chinese capabilities in cyber-espionage.

These capabilities will serve multiple DoD users, and are thus consistent with the mission of Defense-wide Manufacturing Science & Technology. The DMS&T budget has been increased by \$15M to enable you to develop Gallium Nitride semiconductor technology and by \$10M to establish a Microelectronics Cybersecurity Center.

BRIDG, based in Kissimmee Florida, is a public-private partnership focused on the manufacturing processes necessary to develop advanced sensors, imagers and integrated electronic devices. Among many other benefits, working with a non-profit organization offers the DoD maximum flexibility with respect to the intellectual property that is generated. Moreover, BRIDG has the specialized expertise to deliver the solutions DoD needs.

As a nation, we have invested heavily in basic research over many decades. Now we must ensure that that knowledge is translated into manufacturing know-how in the US – both to enable our military to field critical capabilities and to deliver a return on the American taxpayer's investment. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator