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[HTTPS://VTE.DTIC.MIL](https://vte.dtic.mil)

Studies over the past 10 years have highlighted the difficulties in transferring technology from research laboratories to development organizations. In 1999, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Science and Technology) sponsored the development of an automated tool to facilitate technology transition. The Virtual Technology Expo (VTE) went into production in October 2000. Designed to advise the Requirements and Acquisition communities of new technology developments, the VTE contains descriptions of technology advancements and points of contact for obtaining more detailed information.

The technology database is provided as a restricted service through the World Wide Web (<https://vte.dtic.mil>). While the database is currently available, upon registration, only to U.S. government employees and their contractors, an enhancement will soon be completed to protect several levels of information sensitivity. At that time, access will be expanded to include industry, academia, and international technology partners.

VTE users may locate information by selecting Defense Technology Areas or Joint Warfighting Capabilities; by searching the text of technology descriptions for specific criteria; or by finding the organization or point of contact for research projects. Likewise, they may submit technology project descriptions along with multimedia documents, presentations, pictures, diagrams, and videos.

Communication is key! With the participation of the Science and Technology, Requirements, and Acquisition communities, the VTE can expand its database of information to include many sources of technology research. This consolidated database should enable users to:

- Plan for future technology upgrades.
- Monitor commercial technology and product development.
- Find technologies that may enhance military capabilities.
- Choose which technologies to leverage and which to develop with their own resources.
- Develop and refine requirements.
- Prepare analysis of alternatives assessments.
- Showcase research efforts to a wider audience.

For additional information, send an email to vte_help@dtic.mil.



tial needs traded out when you planned the program baseline in light of financial reality. Users will immediately campaign to revisit the deleted needs to any sympathetic audience. Watch for user attempts to include these previously deleted system needs into the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation test criteria.

One approach to mitigating the user-fattening acquisition program requirements: simply ask user representatives what must transpire to satisfy the requirements spelled out in the general need statement. Sometimes the answer is stunningly simple. Their words may not convey the same idea to them as to you.

One user's representative complained loud and long that the program wasn't willing to provide needed logistics support to a system we were fielding. He registered this complaint in spite of millions of dollars of support materials. When asked what he thought he needed that he wasn't getting, the answer was that he needed a circuit logic tester.

Logic tester was added—user representative beamed. Life should always be so tough.

5

TRANSITION TO A SPECIALIST

Regardless of how the acquisition contract has proceeded, transition from the known development contractor to life cycle support raises trauma. No one else can support like "our contractor" (yes, this same contractor who was late on delivery, exceeded the budget, and had to receive waivers for two key technical capabilities).

Symptoms of hardening of the transition include the plan for additional post-delivery development or pre-planned program improvements initiated as a block development for delivery after system acceptance. Planning for life cycle support could include a transition period to either organic or contract support. If you plan to use a support contractor, consider the use of the ACA