

Do you develop and implement PBL strategies?

Then you *really* need to know about DAU's PBL Toolkit.



The Performance-Based Logistics Toolkit is a unique Web-based resource, hosted by the Defense Acquisition University, that provides PMs and logistics managers a step-by-step process and readily available resources to support them in designing and implementing PBL strategies.

The user-friendly online PBL Toolkit is aligned with current DoD policy and is available 24/7 to provide—

- A clear definition and explanation of each PBL design, development, and implementation process step
- The expected output of each process step
- Access to relevant references, tools, policy/guidance, learning materials, templates, and examples to support each step of the process.

The PBL Toolkit is an interactive tool that allows you to—

- Contribute knowledge objects
- Initiate and participate in discussion threads
- Ask questions and obtain help
- Network with members of the AT&L community and learn from their experiences.

To guide you through the development, implementation, and management of performance-based logistics strategies—count on the PBL Toolkit from DAU.

You'll find it at

< <https://acc.dau.mil/pbltoolkit> > .

signed a pilot to test methods that would use the patent database to find mature solutions, extend its network, and build a knowledge base in key areas—such as armor—where, it seems, new challenges arise every day.

The pilot tested the Innovation Business Partners Akribis Search™ technology and IP Driven Innovation™ process, focusing on four challenges:

- identifying mature ship-spotter technology for the EA-6B
- finding mature solutions for up-armoring buses
- identifying the key players in machine-based language translation, (i.e. mapping the innovation grid)
- testing the value of creating an ongoing armor knowledgebase.

The Tech Solutions team received IP Driven Innovation training and began the pilot by using the four-part needs/problem definition process to clearly define their critical challenges. The output of the needs/problems definition became input to the Akribis Search™ engine for mining the U.S. patent database.

Finding Mature Solutions

The EA-6B ship-spotter challenge required that the solution be hand-held and work from within the cockpit without modifying the plane's airframe in any manner. Mining the patent database, we were able to rapidly identify nine companies with technology that could provide potential solutions. Searching their Web sites, we further ascertained that two of the companies already sold products that were flight-certified by the U.S. Air Force. Thus in a very short time, Tech Solutions had at least two potential solutions.

The second example involved the up-armoring of vehicles. Within 24 hours of receiving an urgent request for up-armoring solutions, the tools and techniques used in the pilot identified key work done by the Army, as well as six companies with potential solutions.

These two examples demonstrate how the patent database can be turned into a knowledgebase of mature solutions and facilitate quick focusing on key players.

The machine language translation challenge was different again. The objective was twofold: to benchmark the IBP tools and techniques against funding decisions that had already been made in this area; and to identify "hubs of innovation" in this domain. The first count quickly identified the company in which Tech Solutions had previously invested. On the second count, the solution space map identified several other companies as the dominant hubs. The analysis also identified two industries that Tech Solutions had not been working with—call centers and medical transcription—both potentially interesting sources of new technology in the future.