



## **Congressional, Defense and Innovation Leaders Participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Defense Innovation Days**

---

*Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, James “Hondo” Geurts, Kicked off the event*

Newport, R.I. (12 September 2018)— Defense Leaders participated in the Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance’s (SENEEDIA) Fifth Annual Defense Innovation Days conference held at the Newport Marriot on 27 – 29 August 2018.

Defense Innovation Days is SENEEDIA’s annual three-day event highlighting innovation and technology in the defense arena – from undersea technology and cybersecurity, to the warfighter’s perspectives. This year’s event, which was sold out, included over 350 attendees, representing over 150 companies. “Industry leaders look forward to this event each year, as it provides a forum where policymakers and business leaders can engage and learn from one another,” said Molly Donohue Magee, SENEEDIA Executive Director.

James “Hondo” Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition, gave the keynote presentation at the opening reception. He discussed four pillars essential for ensuring we are meeting the nation’s defense needs: focus on delivery (of systems

and capabilities) to meet military needs; be able to pivot and be agile (ensure innovation); focus on cost effectiveness; and ensure a current and future trained workforce. These pillars were a consistent theme through the remainder of the event.

Other keynote speakers included Vice Admiral William Merz, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations; Vice Admiral David Johnson, Principal Military Deputy, ASN RD&A; Donald McCormack, Executive Director, Naval Surface and Undersea Warfare Centers; Dr. Mark Abbott, President, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; Dr. Eric Evans, Director, MIT Lincoln Laboratory; Ronald Vien, Technical Director, Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport; Donald Hoffer, Executive Director, U.S. Submarine Forces; and Dr. William Burnett, Technical Director, Naval Meteorological and Oceanographic Command. “We appreciate the insight these innovation influencers provided at Defense Innovation Days,” added Magee.

Platinum Sponsors for the event were Raytheon and General Dynamics. “These companies are leaders in the Defense sector. Their participation in Defense Innovation Days helped to highlight Rhode Island as a leader in Defense and Undersea Technology Innovation,” said Magee.

Congressional leaders who spoke included: U.S. Senator Jack Reed (RI), Ranking Member Senate Armed Services Committee and U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI), by video given the Senate was in session; and U.S. Congressman Jim Langevin (RI); and U.S. Congressman David Cicilline (RI).

This year SENEDIA collaborated with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport’s Advanced Naval Technology Exercise (ANTX) 2018. ANTX demonstrates future Navy technologies and provides a low-risk environment in which scientists and engineers can evaluate their technological innovations at the research and development level.

Northrop Grumman was a Silver Sponsor for the event. Bronze Sponsors included: Arnold Magnetic Technologies; Evans Capacitor Company; I-M Technology; iXblue Defense Systems; Leidos; Mercury Systems; Navatek, Ltd.; Progeny Systems; Purvis Systems; Rite-Solutions; SAIC; and Unanet.

The 2019 Defense Innovation Days event will be held 26-28 August 2019 in Newport, RI.

#### **About SENEDIA:**

The Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance, [www.senedia.org](http://www.senedia.org), is a catalyst for thought leadership and innovation in undersea technology, cybersecurity and defense technologies. The organization is focused on growing regional opportunities in the defense and homeland security sectors and facilitates associated workforce development efforts.

For more information on Defense Innovation Days can be found at: [www.defenseinnovationdays.org](http://www.defenseinnovationdays.org) .

---