



News Release

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

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"Providing technological innovation for national security for over 40 years."

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FUTUREMAP PROGRAM CANCELED

The Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) announced today that DARPA's participation in the Futures Markets Applied to Prediction (FutureMAP) program has been withdrawn. The related Small Business Innovative Research effort will be terminated for convenience, effective immediately. FutureMAP was one of the sponsors of the Policy Analysis Market web site that has been the subject of recent news articles.

The FutureMAP research project was meant to explore the power of futures markets to predict and thereby prevent terrorist attacks. Futures markets have proven themselves to be good at predicting such things as elections results; they are often better than expert opinions. The program was part of DARPA's overall thrust to find new ways to thwart terrorism.

"FutureMAP was a small program that faced a number of daunting technical and market challenges", such as Can the market survive and will people continue to participate when U.S. authorities use it to prevent terrorist attacks? Can futures markets be manipulated by adversaries?" the DARPA Director said. "Reconsidering those challenges in light of the recent concerns surrounding the program, it became clear that it simply did not make sense to continue our participation in this effort. Our job at DARPA is to explore new ideas and innovative research to enhance national security. The resources that would have been applied to this project will be applied to other more fruitful pursuits."

DARPA believes it is important to continue funding research that examines how to better use advanced information technologies and processes as predictive tools for terrorist acts. The U.S. will need such advanced capabilities to solve the problems identified in the Congressional report on the 9-11 attacks.

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