

Department of the Navy SBIR/STTR Transition Program

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Topic # N131-016

Life improvement of Plain Airframe Bearings by Preventing Contamination

Triton Systems, Inc.

WHO

SYSCOM: NAVAIR

Sponsoring Program: PMA-275

Transition Target: V-22 Osprey

TPOC:

(301)342-3212

Other transition opportunities:

Other fielded aircraft and especially rotorcraft, that operate in desert environments could benefit from this bearing.



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WHAT

Operational Need and Improvement: Spherical bearings are used in a variety of aerospace applications. Contamination is a common issue that significantly diminishes the operational life of bearings. The presence of both solid and liquid contamination in bearings exacerbates the wear rate, resulting in premature bearing degradation and failure. Operations conducted in environments rich with particle contaminant (e.g. the desert) wear at an even more accelerated rate, resulting in increased maintenance and operating costs and decreased aircraft availability.

Specifications Required: The new bearing must offer improved operational life in heavily contaminated environments, survive the required loading spectrum of the V-22 pitch link bearing, offer minimal impact to existing installation procedures, and not impede the motion of the surrounding system.

Technology Developed: Triton Systems is developing spherical rod-end bearings that resist the intrusion of contamination (such as dirt, sand, or water). These bearings will provide significantly improved service life in contaminant-heavy environments.

Warfighter Value: Incorporation of these bearings will significantly reduce maintenance and operating costs and increase aircraft reliability and readiness.

WHEN

Contract Number: N68335-15-C-0343 **Ending on:** September 29, 2017

Milestone	Risk Level	Measure of Success	Ending TRL	Date
In house testing to establish proof of concept	Low	Demonstration of ability to resist contamination	3	November 2013
Demonstration of service life of standard bearing (as opposed to V-22)	Low	Bearing survived longer than unmodified bearing in a scaled loading profile	4	February 2016
Demonstration of service life of V-22 bearing against simulated operational environment	Med	Bearing survived longer than unmodified bearing against loading profile specified by Bell Helicopter	5	September 2017
Qualification Testing	Med	Bearing survived longer than unmodified bearing in Qualification Test at Bell Helicopter	6	September 2018

HOW

Projected Business Model: Triton Systems plans to license the technology to a military aerospace bearing supplier for sales to NAVAIR and appropriate prime contractors.

Company Objectives: Triton Systems seeks Navy program managers and prime contractors involved with other rotorcraft that are operational in desert environments.

Potential Commercial Applications: Aircraft, military equipment, oil & gas equipment, and other critical commercial equipment with high cost of machine downtime has the greatest need for longer life. Heavily contaminated equipment such as construction and agricultural equipment has the greatest need for reduced maintenance requirements

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