Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) RDT&E Overview

This account funds various Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) Defense-Wide (DW) programs under the purview of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and provides technical support to the staff offices of the Secretary of Defense.

The OSD RDT&E DW budget provides ongoing support and oversight of research, development, and testing for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Principal Staff Assistants (PSA), Military Services and other DoD agencies while eliminating duplication of efforts. It represents requirements from the Services that have been coordinated with appropriate Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) organizations.

The OSD RDT&E budget includes over 100 Program Elements (PEs) in eight budget activities (BA 1-8) ranging from basic research to full scale operational system development and the newly established Software Pilot Program. This budget request consists of programs such as hypersonics, artificial intelligence, directed energy, manufacturing institutes, quantum science, combating and countering terrorism, wargaming, microelectronics, 5G Next Generation Communication, physical security, cyber security, systems engineer, small business interests among many more.

Budget Activities 1, 2 and 3 consists of Science and Technology (S&T) - Basic Research, Applied Research, and Advanced Technology Development which allows the Department of Defense (DoD) to conduct research in areas important to U.S. military capabilities and drives long-term innovation. Approximately 30% of the FY 21 OSD RDT&E President's Budget request is in Science and Technology. Colleges and universities as well as innovation and technology are key performers of the S&T activities. These include programs such as research grants, STEM education, laboratory research, innovation & technology, artificial intelligence, directed energy, Defense Modernization, etc. The remainder of the RDT&E, budget (budget activities 4, 5, 6, 7) is dedicated to military intelligence, information and weapon systems, technology development, sustainment and support and other various efforts while Budget Activity 08 contains Software & Digital Technology Pilot programs.

The OSD RDT&E Program is committed to and has achieved numerous milestones and individual accomplishments which are presented in the FY 2021 President's Budget justification book.

The FY 21 OSD RDT&E budget includes programs supporting offices of the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Under Secretaries of Defense, which are listed below:

Office of the Chief Management Officer (O,CMO)
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S))
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD(R&E))
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (OUSD(P))
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller (OUSD(C))
Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD(P&R))
Office of the Under Secretary for Intelligence (OUSD(I))
DoD Chief Information Officer (DoD CIO)
Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (D,CAPE)
Office of the Director of Net Assessment (ODNA)
Test Resource Management Center (TRMC)

The OSD RDT&E FY 2021 funding request was reduced by $499.4 million resulting from the Defense-Wide Review (DWR), which focused on the Secretary's guidance to streamline operations, increase efficiency, and promote greater affordability within the OSD and Defense Agencies and Field Activities in order to ensure the Department's optimum alignment to the National Defense Strategy and DoD strategic guidance, with particular focus on building a more lethal, resilient, agile, and ready force while strengthening alliances, prioritizing cyber and space capabilities, and focusing on innovation to maintain the technological advantage."

FY 2021 OSD RDT&E President's Budget request is approximately $4.7 billion.