# System of Systems Engineering Collaborators Information Exchange (SoSECIE)

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**Mission Focused Engineering**

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#### Abstract

This presentation discusses the current implementation activities and organizational focus areas adopted by the Director of Defense Research and Engineering for Advanced Capabilities. These areas are intended to apply engineering rigor to integrate and guide investment toward modernized, enterprise-level solutions to mission problems.

The Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act directed mission integration activities to more directly link modernization initiatives and programs to future mission capabilities. Mission integration includes two parts: mission engineering and capability integration. Mission engineering establishes mission architectures and evaluates the efficacy and trade-offs to establish mission-based investment roadmaps. Capability integration includes assessments of major acquisition programs, rapid fielding projects, and prototyping to independently inform and ensure these efforts align to the roadmaps and overall missions. Together, these elements provide for mission-informed investments and requirements to establish new capabilities, as well as the necessary course correction to ensure existing programs, prototypes, and experiments maintain alignment with evolving mission needs. Mission integration changes R&E’s focus from building things “right” (traditional program oversight) to informing leadership if we are building the right things toward a more lethal modernized force.

#### Biography

Mr. Dean A. Ridgely is the Chief Engineer, for Space and Missile Defense and Chief Engineer for Mission Engineering in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. Mr. Ridgely has more than 30 years of experience in acquisition, program management, and systems engineering of Major Defense Acquisition Programs. He is a Level III certified acquisition professional. He holds a bachelor of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree in engineering administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Mr Ridgely is currently leading the development of the mission engineering capability for USD(R&E).