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## NEWS RELEASE

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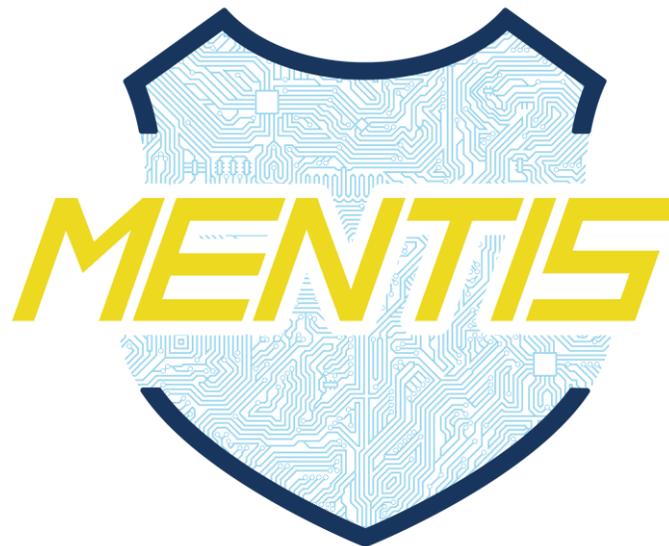
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# Local Startup Wins DoD Cybersecurity Contract

A Central New York startup has won a SBIR contract to help the Air Force protect Cyber Physical Systems and the Internet of Things



**ROME, NY** — [Mentis Technologies](#), LLC, a cybersecurity startup company, announced that they were selected as the recipient of a [Small Business Innovation Research](#) (SBIR) contract. This is Mentis Technologies' second SBIR award to develop innovative cybersecurity solutions for the nation's Air Force. This phase of the SBIR includes conducting a feasibility study to determine the effectiveness of potential or existing commercial or defense solution(s) to protect Cyber Physical Systems (CPS).

Recently, the Air Force SBIR/STTR Program Office, issued a new type of solicitation which included Air Force special topics. Mentis' award is a special topic facilitated as a partnership between the Air Force and MD5. [MDS](#) is an innovation and entrepreneurship program run out of the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy (MIBP).

Under this contract, Mentis Technologies will be conducting research and development of software and hardware to secure Cyber Physical Systems. Sometimes called Internet of Things (IoT), CPS' are found in businesses such as manufacturing, in homes with smart sensors and appliances, and even in DoD weapon systems. Mentis Technologies has developed a prototype of an innovative technology utilizing an open source intrusion detection and prevention application, machine learning, and proprietary methods to monitor layers of the OIP stack. Brian Abbe, CEO, Mentis Technologies stated, "The goal is to make the product compatible with current CPS' to provide security of legacy systems and to build this technology into future systems."

Mentis is a member of the [Griffiss Institute Business Incubator](#) in Rome, NY, and a virtual member of The [Tech Garden](#) in Syracuse, NY. Mentis develops advanced cybersecurity systems to prevent cyber criminals from entering computers and networks. Their flagship product, which was previously awarded a SBIR, uses a remote browsing technique built on patented technology from the [Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate](#), in Rome, NY. [A video overview of this product is available to view here](#). Additionally, Mentis provides a darkweb scanning tool called [InfraDrip](#), that monitors and alerts users if their Personally Identifiable Information has been leaked onto the darkweb.

A successful Phase I project could lead to a multi-year Phase II award that would allow Mentis to develop and demonstrate the CPS prototype system in Air Force applications.

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### **About Mentis Technologies, LLC**

Mentis Technologies is a Cybersecurity company providing innovative technologies to protect networks, computers, and networked devices. Mentis was formed by a prior AFRL scientist/engineer through the Entrepreneurial Opportunities Program in Rome NY. Since forming in 2017, Mentis has developed products to protect systems from web borne viruses through its patented methods and has expanded into IoT and dark web applications. Mentis is a registered member of the Syracuse Tech Garden and is participating in the Griffiss Institute Business Incubator programs. [www.mentistech.com](http://www.mentistech.com)

### **About Griffiss Institute Business Incubator**

The Griffiss Institute Business Incubator (GIBI) is located in Rome, New York, and serves the Central New York region. The GIBI partners with other regional economic development entities, to combine our region's numerous high-tech, information, and cybersecurity assets with business development programs and services to support our local entrepreneurs. [www.griffissinstitute.org/business-incubator](http://www.griffissinstitute.org/business-incubator)

## **About the Tech Garden**

The Tech Garden is Central new York's premier technology incubator. The mission of CenterState CEO's Tech Garden is to stimulate high-tech entrepreneurship, foster the development of emerging growth companies, and support technology commercialization throughout the region. [www.thetechgarden.com](http://www.thetechgarden.com)

## **About MD5**

MD5 operates both from its DC headquarters and through a network of national research universities. Born out of a summer study at New York University in 2015, the National Security Technology Accelerator concept was transformed into the MD5 program office at the height of the Defense Innovation Initiative under Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. Like their sister organizations, the Defense Innovation Unit, Experimental (DIUx), and the Strategic Capabilities Office (SCO), MD5 represents divergent thinking and executes non-traditional approaches to problem solving that increase the permeability between the public and private domains.

AFRL and MD5 have partnered to streamline the Small Business Innovation Research process in an attempt to speed up experience, broaden the pool of potential applications and decrease bureaucratic overhead. Beginning in SBIR 18.3, the National Security Technology Accelerator has begun offering "Special" SBIR topics that are faster, leaner and open to a broader range of innovations. [www.md5.net](http://www.md5.net)