

## **NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Team Shines at Carderock Forum**

ROCKVILLE, MD – What started as a one-day outreach event quickly doubled into a deep dive into cutting-edge technology for the NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Programs Team at the NSWC Carderock Industry Partnership Forum. Held from February 25-26, 2026, the two-day forum saw team members Susie Drummond and Benen Witkop not only engage with a wide array of innovators but also snag a surprise invitation to an exclusive tech summit.

The event, which had been rescheduled from October 2025 due to a government shutdown, kicked off with the NSWC Carderock Industry Day. The goal was to give industry partners a clearer picture of Carderock's mission and future needs. The NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Programs Team was right in the thick of it when Capital Tech Bridge Director, Major Jacob Godfrey, USA, invited Susie Drummond to take a prime seat on the concluding Q&A panel. Representing the entire Navy SBIR/STTR program, Drummond expertly fielded questions and shared crucial insights with the 215 attendees.

Between presentations, Drummond and Witkop networked and connected with 42 different individuals from small and large businesses, government, academia, and nonprofits. Their proactive outreach ensured the SBIR/STTR programs were front-and-center.

The team's impact was so notable that their one-day trip quickly became two. Major Godfrey personally invited them back for the second day of the forum: SIDE 2026: A Deep Dive into 3D Scanning. This exclusive event brought together top minds in industry, academia, and government to explore the latest innovations in 3D scanning and additive manufacturing, giving the NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Programs Team a front-row seat to the future of naval technology.

Events like the Carderock Industry Partnership Forum are absolutely vital for uniting the creative energy of the private sector with the strategic needs of the Navy. The NAVSEA SBIR/STTR Programs Team is always enthusiastic about fostering these important relationships and contributing to the collaborative spirit. The team is excited to see these valuable partnerships grow and looks forward to participating in even more successful events in the future.