



U.S. ARMY  
**RDECOM**

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## U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND

### Fact Sheet

#### Foreign Comparative Testing Program

- The FCT mission is to find and evaluate “here and now” solutions to meet the operational needs of American service members so they have the technology they need to remain dominant on the battlefield and return home safely – regardless of the origin of that technology.
- The Office of the Secretary of Defense has leveraged new and evolving technology through FCT since 1980.
- The program encourages international cooperation and helps reduce acquisition costs by funding the testing of foreign non-developmental items, commercial-off-the-shelf items, or items in a late state of development that demonstrate the potential to satisfy the U.S. military’s needs.
- The FCT program, in addition to RDECOM’s global technology search and in-house research and development efforts, means state-of-the-art technological solutions for our Soldiers. This program also confirms RDECOM’s role as the Army’s smart buyer.
- During this time of budget restraints within the Department of Defense, FCT will evaluate foreign technologies to save money on the Army’s R&D efforts.

#### Engineer and Scientist Exchange Program

- Each year the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation selects top-performing, mid-career engineers and scientists from across the Army for temporary assignment with an allied government.
- In 2013, RDECOM forwarded 22 application packages to DASA DE&C. RDECOM’s ESEP participants were assigned to Australia, Chile, Germany, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Spain and the United Kingdom in 2013. New participants deployed to France, Germany, Chile, Singapore and Australia in 2014.
- ESEP gives participants first-hand experience working for an allied organization. While assigned they perform duties under the direction of a host supervisor, just as their foreign colleagues do.
- Assignments are typically for one year but may be extended at the request of the participant’s parent organization and foreign host.