

The Contest for Innovation

Task Force on 21st-Century National Security Technology and Workforce

Long-term strategic competition with a rising China revolves around a contest for technological superiority. Many of the technologies most important to this competition are being developed and produced in the commercial sphere. To prevail, the United States government must organize, empower, and safeguard our National Security Innovation Base (NSIB).

To address this challenge, the Reagan Institute convened a bipartisan group of thought leaders, current and former officials, and representatives from industry and innovation to produce *The Contest for Innovation: Strengthening America's National Security Innovation Base in an Era of Strategic Competition*.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Create a **National Security Innovation Committee** to serve as an independent, executive branch interagency coordination body.



Launch a national civilian **STEM Corps** program to recruit top students from technical disciplines relevant to national security technology into public service.

Establish a **National Security Innovation Base Visa** to draw appropriately vetted, highly skilled foreign national graduates and workers to contribute to the NSIB.



Institute the **Partnership for a Strong Innovation Base**, a new international framework to allow the NSIB to capitalize on the capabilities of the most trusted U.S. allies.

Adopt a number of **risk-positive reforms** to the way the DOD does business, with the goal of acculturating its technology acquisition to the nature of the NSIB.

