Customized Research: Motor Vehicles Project

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Collaborating from the Racetrack to the Battlefield

What do motorsports and the U.S. military have in common? According to former U.S. Senator Kay Hagan, the answer is: more than you might think. A native of North Carolina, where the motorsports industry is big business, Senator Hagan recognized that whether you're competing on a racetrack or on the battlefield, success depends heavily on the performance of your equipment.

CHALLENGE

Recognizing the benefit of public-private collaboration, Senator Hagan wanted to design and launch a research effort aimed at identifying, analyzing, and evaluating lessons learned and technologies developed by the commercial motorsports industry that showed potential for resolving technical performance issues encountered in U.S. Military tactical wheeled vehicles.

SOLUTION

The IDB designed and executed the Motor Vehicles High Performance Capability (MVHPC) project, a multi-step research initiative that aligned cutting-edge private industry capabilities with gaps identified in U.S. military vehicle performance.

The research examined different areas of vehicle design and performance such as vehicle safety, power trains, suspension, braking systems, high-strength low-weight materials, and fuel efficiency, pinpointing commercial solutions with the potential to translate into military vehicle applications.

RESULTS

- Completed an extensive military vehicle performance gap analysis
- Complied a database matching gaps from that analysis with capabilities and technologies from motorsports companies across the U.S. to address those needs
- Identified over 200 companies with expertise, technologies, and/or capabilities directly applicable to the identified performance gaps

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