

35 year history

75%+ successful transition rate into operations

MERIT (open process)



CSI (source selection)



Down-selecting from ~200 proposals to ~30 selected projects every year

Both MERIT and CSI require that proposals have a strong tie to NRO Overhead Systems; the final deliverable must increase the access to, the content of, or the timeliness of NRO Overhead Systems data to the tactical warfighter.

Rapidly delivering game-changing capabilities into warfighter hands

“Biggest bang for the buck in the NRO!”
-NRO Leadership

Points of Contact

TacDSR PM
703.808.1396

TacDSR Deputy PM
703.808.0909



A large banner for the Tactical Defense Space Reconnaissance (TacDSR) Program. The background shows a fighter jet, a satellite, and a soldier. The text reads: 'Tactical Defense Space Reconnaissance (TacDSR) Program'. At the bottom, there is a circular logo for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) with 'Tactical Defense Space Reconnaissance' around the perimeter and 'MID', 'CSI', 'SWS', and 'AST' in the center. The NRO logo is also in the top right corner.



TacDSR is a Congressionally-mandated NRO Military Intelligence Program to “develop, mature, and integrate technologies that facilitate the dissemination of National Systems Data to the warfighter in the field.”

A rigorous and fair annual process

MERIT (Military Exploitation of Reconnaissance and Intelligence Technology) is an open acquisition process. The MERIT Steering Committee (MSC) – comprised of representatives from service TENCAP, COCOMs, and Combat Support Agencies – evaluates and ranks the submitted proposals; each proposal must have a MSC member sponsor the proposal.

CSI (Combat Systems Integration) is a formal source selection process. TacDSR staff and invited advisors evaluate and rank the proposals.

TacDSR funds approximately 30 projects a year through its two acquisition solicitations, MERIT and CSI. The projects are carried out by industry, government agencies (including government laboratories), FFRDC, and academia. Each project may run from one to two years and may receive funding up to \$1,750,000.

