

THE ILP HELPS QUENCH TASC'S THIRST FOR NEW IDEAS

For over thirty years, TASC, Inc. has provided engineering and information technology services to U.S. government agencies and other clients, solving complex problems in computer network security, Air Force logistics, radar and communication systems, reconnaissance satellite mapping applications, and other areas. To remain on the cutting edge in multiple disciplines, TASC has long sought out expertise beyond its own borders. Drawn to the breadth and quality of research at MIT, the company joined the Industrial Liaison Program in 1987.

"Since then, the ILP has been a continuing source of information, contacts, and state-of-the-art research in areas that are important to our business," says Dr. Robert Brammer, TASC Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. "Our ongoing relationship with the ILP has stimulated new ideas and concepts that ultimately led to new business opportunities."

The ILP has delivered for TASC throughout the years, notes Brammer, by providing "a single interface" for contacts with MIT researchers, convenient access to on-campus research facilities, frequent networking opportunities at conferences, a steady stream of MIT research publications, and a renewable source of potential student recruits. In some cases, ILP efforts have led TASC staffers to work directly with MIT researchers on company projects, typically by hiring them as consultants or subcontractors.

According to Brammer, as TASC's interests have evolved in the past fourteen years, the ILP has helped the company develop a wide range of such collaborations. For example, when TASC first joined the ILP, the company focused primarily on computer science. ILP-initiated contacts centered on what is now the computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL), and Media Laboratory, leading to jointly-funded research projects in advanced computer networking, applied computer vision, and related topics, and a joint patent in biomedical image processing technology.

Some years later, after the company was acquired by Primark Corporation, a global financial information services provider,

TASC called upon the ILP to help them solve an entirely different breed of problem – to integrate diverse databases of financial information on publicly traded companies. Thanks to an ILP-assisted collaboration with the Sloan School of Management's Center for Research in International Financial Information Services, TASC found a way to efficiently access the data and deliver it to customers around the world. Other fruitful interactions between TASC and the Sloan School soon followed. Brammer notes that TASC would never have predicted hooking up with this part of MIT when the company first joined the ILP.

Looking to the future, TASC has begun to explore joint efforts with MIT researchers in information security, electric power management, and other rapidly changing disciplines. Impressed with the ILP's track record, Brammer continues to use the ILP to help make the necessary connections. Connections that may ultimately boost the bottom line. "Part of our business strategy is making sure we stay ahead of the curve in diverse research areas," he explains. "Since we joined, ILP has provided us with a continuing stream of ideas that we could extract from the MIT research community and develop into a form useful to our customers."

For more information about how we can put the resources of MIT to work for you, call the Industrial Liaison Program at 1-617-253-2691, e-mail us at liaison@ilp.mit.edu, or visit <http://ilp-www.mit.edu/>