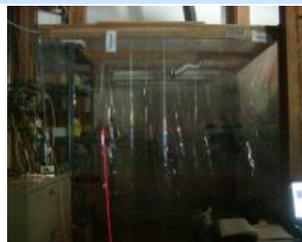




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A laboratory laser engagement

Title

Distributed System for Field Detection of Stray Energy from Laser Weapons

SBIR Topic Number

AF05-313

Summary Report Type

Phase I Summary

Summation

The Air Force is currently in need of a sensor system that can monitor stray laser energy during open-air range testing of high-energy weapons such as the Airborne Laser. During engagements, light reflected from the target and light missing the intended target can cause hazardous conditions throughout the test range, both on the ground and in the air. In Phase I, a prototype sensor system was designed, constructed, and tested in the contractor's laboratory. It was demonstrated that the system and accompanying algorithms were capable of monitoring stray laser energy present in a laboratory-scale test range. In Phase II, an advanced prototype suitable for test-range measurements will be developed, field tested, and delivered to the Air Force.

Anticipated Benefits

Phase II of this project will result in a product that will benefit the Department of Defense during the development and testing of high-energy laser weapons by protecting personnel and indigenous wildlife during open-air range testing. It will also aid in the development of predictive models for the stray energy produced during laser-weapon engagements. Finally, the product will find dual use in industrial settings where stray energy from high-power lasers poses a safety risk to workers.

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