

Jim McEwan President and Chief Executive Officer TAG

Jim McEwan is the newly appointed president and CEO of TAG (Technology Advancement Group Inc.). He recently served as TAG's COO and executive vice president of engineering and design. TAG's design, manufacturing and 24/7 worldwide technical support facilities are headquartered in the Washington, DC, Technology Corridor, Dulles, VA. TAG has a West Coast/Pacific Rim office in San Diego.



Q: TAG has built a reputation for innovation and flexibility for its customers in the rugged COTS IT market. What recent technological advancements have you made, and how have these innovations benefited the warfighter?

A: Well, we've just released a 2U server, the 2000S-SF, which is powered by Sun's latest processor, the UltraSparc IIIi. In addition to meeting MIL-standards for shock/vibration, sand/dust, temperature and humidity, this server meets requirements for an EMI.

Within the last year, we've brought several products to market, including a rugged short rack (19.25 inch deep) server designed for warfighters running applications where IT space is limited, like aircraft, submarines, transit cases or Humvees. Because it was created specifically for compact environments, the short rack server's segregated internal chassis design circulates air through problem hot areas individually and ensures optimal cooling in extreme temperatures.

We've introduced the RLKT-17T, our rugged deployable keyboard LCD drawer with an anti-glare, anti-reflective touch screen and a waterproof keyboard. The touch screen enables the warfighter to access critical data and applications in direct sunlight.

In addition to being committed to innovate IT solutions for extreme environments, TAG is also devoted to ensuring that our rugged offerings always keep pace with the latest available technology, including server platforms and peripherals.

Q: How long has TAG been doing business with the DoD?

A: TAG has been exclusively serving the

needs of the DoD for 20 years, since we were founded in 1984. We're veteran-owned and an ISO-9001:2000-registered corporation. Customers can access our complete line of IT solutions including IT services through a variety of contracting vehicles, including our GSA schedule, SEWP-III, ECS III, I-ASSURE, ENCORE and many others.

TAG has also partnered successfully for many years with Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Raytheon and other prime contractors to design and build systems for programs such as the U.S. Air Force's Global Broadcast Service and Electronic Systems Center's Theater Deployable Communications programs; U.S. Marine Corps' Tactical Data Network; and U.S. Navy's newest class of amphibious ships, the San Antonio class Landing Platform Dock. Our design technology has proved successful with TAG systems deployed in campaigns such as Desert Storm, Bosnia, and Iraqi Freedom. The first-hand knowledge we have gained from sending TAG systems into combat situations has translated into designing products that not only meet MIL-standards but survive the battle.

Q: How will the DoD-wide focus on transformation and joint technology affect TAG's direction?

A: The DoD continues to search for IT solutions that support their goals for transformation, which includes technology that is interoperable, reliable and easily maintain-

able across forces. For TAG, this means delivering rugged, COTS-based, compact systems built for extreme environments that are durable enough to withstand multi-year deployment programs.

Our customers within the DoD tell us that they want continually advancing computing power, but need systems that are smaller and lighter to fit their space requirements. These systems must still meet stringent MIL-standard requirements. TAG's philosophy has always been to provide our customers exactly what they need to get the job done.

Our mission includes providing the maximum value to our customers, which entails listening to their needs and delivering innovations that work for them. We intend to continue our tradition of developing IT solutions that support our troops when and where they need it most. All of our products are a direct result of assessing our customers' needs and delivering comprehensive solutions that meet those needs. We specifically design every TAG product with the end-user in mind.

The construction of a new 40,000 square foot building that will help us to sustain our expanding role supporting the DoD is underway. It will house our manufacturing facilities and an enhanced confidence MIL-standard test center, as well as provide additional office space for our growing operations.

Q: What are the biggest technological challenges that face your industry today?

A: We strive to make systems smaller, faster, lighter, more powerful and more reliable. However, in addition to all of those factors, we need to also design units that consume less power and are more secure while simultaneously meeting rigorous MIL-standards for sand/dust, shock/vibration, temperature, humidity and EMI. With every year that passes and each new threat to global security, our customers are becoming increasingly more value-driven. Our goal is to effectively support the more than 10,000 TAG units deployed worldwide and to ensure that we provide those customers with everything they need to accomplish the mission. ★