

# Corridor Inc.

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## **The Buddy System**

AnthroTronix, a Silver Spring-based engineering firm that works to optimize the interaction between people and technology, has a chance to learn at the foot of defense giant Lockheed Martin Corp. The 10-person firm was chosen as part of a mentor-protégé program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Currently, AnthroTronix works to develop technology that includes using wearable devices like gloves and joysticks as well as using responsive robots to assist children with illness and disability. Similar technology is in the works to help protect and monitor military personnel.

Over the next three years, AnthroTronix will work with teams at Lockheed to help advance some of these concepts into actual technology, as well as develop a strategic plan for accelerated growth, said Cori Lathan, the company's founder.

"This [partnership] will allow us to grow as a company," she said.

Lockheed Martin will receive roughly \$1.9 million from the Defense Department to mentor the small business, but AnthroTronix will retain the intellectual property rights to the technology they are working on. Lockheed will also help the company get outside contracts, said Lathan.

The guidance will hopefully allow AnthroTronix to grow and develop into a self-sustaining company, she said.

Since 1991, over \$19 million has been awarded in 40 active mentor-protégé agreements by the Defense Department. Lockheed Martin was the first prime contractor in the country to have an agreement approved, said Tom Greer, a company spokesman.