



**US Army Corps  
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Engineer Research and  
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# News Release

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## **TEC Garners FY 2004 SBIR Phase II Quality Award**

A Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) initiative sponsored by the Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC) Topographic Engineering Center (TEC), Alexandria, Va., recently received an FY 2004 Phase II Quality Award. The project, "Bare Earth Models & Feature Extraction from Light Detection & Ranging (LIDAR) Technologies" was proposed by Spectrum Mapping, LLC. "Spectrum Mapping did an excellent job in executing this SBIR," said Charles McKenna, TEC's Technical SBIR point of contact.

The Army's ability to manage and process high-resolution LIDAR data are vital to full exploitation. Spectrum Mapping applied several innovative approaches that are supported by its LIDAR Mapping and Analysis System (LID-MAS) software. LID-MAS provides a method to efficiently manage and map terrain in 3-D using LIDAR data. This approach allows Soldiers to easily import, display, and process various formats within a production environment. LIDAR reflectance features, such as bare earth, buildings, vegetation canopies and roads, can be extracted and exported for use in various terrain tasks. These include Homeland Security urban-based datasets and military applications, such as Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain, mobility, line of sight/visibility analyses and 3-D visualization.

Robert Burkhardt, Director, McKenna, J. Carlton Daniel, Technical Monitor and Helen Curlee, Contracting Officer received the award during the recent Quality Awards Ceremony. "To be recognized for a quality award is very gratifying," Curlee said.

The ERDC is the premier research and development facility for the Corps of Engineers. It consists of seven laboratories at four geographic sites, with more than 2,000 employees, \$1.2 billion in facilities, and an annual research program exceeding \$570 million. It conducts research in both military and civil works mission areas for the Department of Defense and the nation. Its primary mission areas include military engineering, battlespace environment, facilities and infrastructure, environmental quality and water resources. TEC's mission is to provide the Warfighter with a superior knowledge of the battlefield, and support the Nation's civil and environmental initiatives through research, development, and the application of expertise in the topographic and related sciences.