



FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN & MACHINE COGNITION

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DR. KENNETH FORD NAMED TO U.S. DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

Secretary of Defense Taps IHMC Director to Join Top Ranked Advisory Board

PENSACOLA—Today, the Florida Institute for Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC) announced that its Director and CEO, Dr. Kenneth M. Ford, has been named by the US Department of Defense to serve on the prestigious Defense Science Board. Reporting directly to the US Secretary of Defense, the 32-member Defense Science Board is comprised of nationally recognized leaders and experts selected on the basis of their preeminence in the fields of science, technology and its application to military operations, research, engineering, manufacturing, and acquisition process.

The Defense Science Board was established in 1956 as a standing committee that advises top Pentagon officials on the “needs and opportunities presented by new scientific knowledge for radically new weapons systems.” Over time, the board has expanded its purview to also develop and strengthen the DoD’s research and development strategies for the 21st century.

Retired Air Force Gen. Lester L. Lyles and Vice Chair of the Defense Science Board commented that “*leadership in defense requires a constant infusion of new ideas and access to state of the art knowledge on scientific and technical matters and Ken Ford brings those desired qualities to this Board*”.

The need to modernize and transform the nation’s armed forces to meet the demands of a changing world, as well as to create the military of the future — one that takes full advantage of revolutionary new technologies — are top priorities of the Department of Defense. These transformation processes are needed to ensure continued success in military and national security endeavors. For over 50 years, the Defense Science Board has served the DoD by providing innovative solutions to a myriad of technological, operational and managerial problems. Looking forward, their strategic input will be critically important as the DoD develops new strategies and concepts to meet future needs.



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Dr. Ford possesses a long list of experiences, credentials, and meritorious accolades underpinning his selection to the Defense Science Board. Dr. Ford is Founder and CEO of the Institute for Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC) — one of the nation’s premier research organizations with world-class scientists and engineers investigating a broad range of topics related to building technological systems aimed at amplifying and extending human cognitive and perceptual capacities. IHMC headquarters are in Pensacola, Florida and a new branch research facility has recently opened in Ocala, Florida.

“Dr. Ken Ford and the team at IHMC are revolutionizing science and technology right here in Florida. As head of Military Affairs and Chair of Space Florida, I commend Dr. Ford for being a visionary and developing ideas and technology that will advance America’s national defense.” – Jennifer Carroll, Lt. Governor of Florida.

Dr. Ford has served on a number of top national boards and commissions to include the National Science Board, Air Force Science Advisory Board, and NASA Advisory Council, in which he most recently served as Chair. He was named by Florida Trend Magazine as one of Florida’s four most influential citizens in academia. In 2010, Dr. Ford was awarded NASA’s Distinguished Public Service Medal — the highest honor that the agency confers.

Dr. Ford is the author or coauthor of hundreds of scientific papers and six books of note. His interests include: artificial intelligence, cognitive science, human-centered computing, and entrepreneurship in government and academia. He received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Tulane University. He is Emeritus Editor-in-Chief of AAAI/MIT Press and has been involved in the editing of several journals. Dr. Ford is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), a member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and a member of the IEEE Computer Society. Dr. Ford has received many awards and honors including the Doctor Honoris Causas from the University of Bordeaux in 2005 and the 2008 Robert S. Englemore Memorial Award for his work in artificial intelligence (AI).

For More Information about Dr. Kenneth Ford and the IHMC, please go to www.ihmc.us or call (850) 202-4400. For more information on the Defense Science Board and the US Department of Defense, please go to www.acq.osd.mil/dsb.



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