# AI Expo for National Competitiveness in Washington DC Highlights Military Tech Integration



On May 7 and 8, 2024, Washington DC hosted the "AI Expo for National Competitiveness", organized by the Special Competitive Studies Project, a think tank established by former Google CEO Eric Schmidt. The event's lead sponsor was Palantir, co-founded by Peter Thiel, a company known for its controversial dealings with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and its current supply of AI products to the Israel Defense Forces.

The conference brought together technology companies, military officials, and contractors such as Booz Allen Hamilton. Key panelists included Eric Schmidt, Palantir CEO Alex Karp, CIA Deputy Director David Cohen, and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley.

Discussions centered around the future of AI in warfare, with Karp asserting aggressive military strategies and claiming that the “peace activists are war activists.” Milley addressed the complications of modern urban warfare, reflecting on historical wartime actions. Schmidt emphasized the role of drones and automation in future conflicts.

The conference also featured booths showcasing various military technologies, including Palantir's augmented reality tools for soldiers, and presented panels on ethics and human rights.

The event underscored the increasing integration of AI and military operations, with limited focus on the ethical implications of such advancements.