



COATING TO CUT HEFTY MAINTENANCE COSTS BY BETTER PROTECTING AIRCRAFT



A small business breakthrough in materials will likely make a direct impact on the reliability and maintainability of weapon systems across the Air Force, including the F-35 program.

Backed by an Air Force SBIR contract, Texas Research Institute Austin (TRI/Austin) developed a high-temperature, abrasion-resistant coating that demonstrated a 20X improvement in laboratory testing. Known as Proteckt, this new coating is expected to save the F-35 program an estimated \$14 million in life-cycle costs by directly addressing a current need.

TRI/Austin's work was driven by the Air Force's demand for abrasion-resistant coatings that can withstand high-temperatures for long durations and match existing camouflage paint schemes of aircraft parts. These coatings are often used to protect composite surfaces of aircraft, particularly when blade seals are in contact with those surfaces.

- 20x improvement
- Increased reliability
- Increased maintainability



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For full story click here:

http://www.wpafb.af.mil/Portals/60/documents/afri/sbir/Innovation_20150305_AF081-037_Tri-Austin.pdf

