

Neal Orringer is President of the Applied Science & Technology Research Organization (ASTRO) America, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that advances Government-Industry collaborations. Their projects accelerate transition of key manufacturing technologies into Defense production. Over the last 20 years, Mr. Orringer has become a leading Defense manufacturing expert, as Director of Manufacturing at the Department of Defense, advisor to two U.S. Secretaries of Commerce and three U.S. Senators, as well as an industry executive.



Credit: U.S. Department of Defense

At the U.S. Department of Defense, he was responsible for overseeing applied research *Manufacturing Technology* and capital expenditure *Defense Production Act* programs. In this capacity, he led the launching of the first of several manufacturing innovation institutes, later named Manufacturing USA. The focus of this institute is additive manufacturing or 3D printing, and currently remains a model for Public-Private Partnership. Comprising government, academia, and industry, this partnership

focused on accelerating adoption of next-generation additive manufacturing tools, materials, and processes. For his innovative leadership at the Pentagon, he was awarded both the *Secretary of Defense Award for Excellence* and *Exceptional Civilian Service* medal.

Acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank then tapped him to help coordinate manufacturing efforts of 13 federal agencies. As a senior advisor to Dr. Blank and her successor, Penny Pritzker, he established multiple economic development and advanced manufacturing government-industry collaborations, including the *Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership*.

On the U.S. Senate Banking Committee staff, he was lead negotiator for the government's rescue of *Chrysler* and *General Motors*, as well as Chairman Chris Dodd's principal staffer on Defense Production and foreign investment issues.

A renowned manufacturing expert, he has testified to Congress and advised addressed international standards bodies on key production processes.

At 3D Systems Inc., he has led teams of engineers responsible for executing government research and development contracts and cooperative agreements. He currently serves as a visiting researcher at the U.S. Army Research Laboratory as well as President of ASTRO.



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