

**STATEMENT OF
PHILLIP W. CHRISTY, EJD, CMRP
INTERIM PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER
OFFICE OF ACQUISITION, LOGISTICS & CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON
HARNESSING BIOMEDICAL INNOVATION: MODERNIZING VA HEALTHCARE FOR
THE FUTURE**

APRIL 1, 2025

Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, and distinguished members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of VA. This testimony details our progress and commitment to ensuring Veterans receive high-quality health care through cutting-edge medical technology. We will discuss our ongoing efforts to modernize technology, with a particular focus on procuring and using of state-of-the-art biomedical technology equipment.

VA remains steadfast in its mission to provide world-class health care to the Nation's Veterans. State-of-the-art biomedical technology—ranging from advanced imaging systems like magnetic resonance imaging and computed tomography scanners to therapeutic devices such as radiation therapy machines—plays a critical role in achieving this goal. Our policies and programs, including the High-Tech Medical Equipment (HTME) initiative and our collaboration with the Department of Defense (DoD), reflect a strategic approach to equipping VA medical facilities with the necessary tools to diagnose, treat, and monitor Veterans effectively.

VA's procurement of state-of-the-art biomedical technology is primarily managed through the HTME program, with the National Acquisition Center within the Office of Procurement, Acquisition, and Logistics providing oversight. This program, operating under an Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract framework, ensures centralized purchasing of high-cost, high-tech equipment such as radiology systems, ultrasound machines, and nuclear medicine devices.

A pillar of our procurement strategy is VA-DoD Health Care Resources Sharing Agreements, which allow us to share advanced health care equipment with DoD facilities while reducing costs and improving access for Veterans in underserved regions. VA's Community Care Network is another critical resource that allows VA to deliver world class health care for Veterans through community providers that use cutting-edge biomedical technology.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) also engages and co-develops with U.S. industry at the forefront of biomedical innovations, ensuring that industry products

receive critical clinical feedback for best fit with VA health care and enhancing competitiveness on the global market. In 2025, VA is slated to open a state-of-the-art biomanufacturing facility designed to be optimally integrated with hospital infrastructure and used to evaluate and incorporate emerging biotechnology solutions into clinical care.

A recent example of VA's efforts to leverage cutting-edge biomedical innovation is our National Equipment Contract (NEC). Established through NEC on October 7, 2024, VA will be allowed to procure the Edison Histotripsy medical device, a first-of-its-kind, non-invasive, sonic beam therapy platform capable of destroying targeted liver tumors at a sub-cellular level, and that the Food and Drug Administration approved on March 13, 2024. NEC allows for streamlined equipment access for all VHA facilities, aligned with the Clinically Driven Strategic Sourcing principles, to leverage advanced technologies for Veteran care.

On February 1, 2025, VA also awarded a new contract to procure Da Vinci Surgical Robots that allow VA to provide minimally invasive surgery using robot-assisted techniques to improve surgery outcomes. The contract includes the Da Vinci 5 Dual Console along with previous generation consoles. As of March 28, 2025, VA operates 164 Da Vinci robots across 84 sites. The approach aims to reduce patient recovery time and also enhances precision during operations.

In conclusion, VA's procurement and use of state-of-the-art biomedical technology equipment reflect our unwavering dedication to Veterans. Through the HTME program, general procurement policies, and VA-DoD partnership, we are equipping our health care system to meet today's demands and tomorrow's challenges. We appreciate the Committee's interest on this topic.