

ML Mackey, CEO

Beacon Interactive Systems



Ms. Mackey is the CEO and a Co-founder of Beacon Interactive Systems, a high-tech innovator headquartered in Waltham, MA. Beacon's digital products are deployed across the DoD to drive efficiencies and operational availability of mission critical assets. Beacon engaged initially with the SBIR Program to adapt commercial products to address national security needs and has since successfully transitioned commercial technology into multiple Programs of Record addressing modernization needs, streamlining operational performance at the edge, and providing enhanced situational awareness of real-time operational capacity.

As a strong advocate for both entrepreneurship and the federal innovation ecosystem, Ms. Mackey is often invited to speak at Congressional hearings and industry events about the empowering aspects of entrepreneurship and the collective economic impact of small business. A nationally recognized thought leader, Ms. Mackey is frequently interviewed on the topics of innovation and the Defense Industrial Base, most recently in articles for Politico, Inside Defense, and the Wall Street Journal.

In her non-profit leadership roles, she serves on the Executive Committee of the Board at the National Defense Industrial Association and as the Small Business Division Chair. Ms. Mackey is a past Chair of the National Small Business Association and served on the Small Business Administration's Invention, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee and the National Academies of Sciences Army Science & Technology Roundtable.

Ms. Mackey's recognition includes the 2023 NDIA Sridhar Small Business Executive of the Year Award and the 2021 NSBA Small Business Advocate of the Year. For her entrepreneurial efforts, Ms. Mackey has received an Entrepreneurial Leadership Award from the Boston-based Women Entrepreneurs in Science & Technology, a Tibbetts Award from the Small Business Administration, and Champion of Small Business Awards from NSBA's Small Business Technology Council.

Prior to co-founding Beacon, Ms. Mackey worked at Digital Equipment Corporation where she began her career as a hardware engineer. Ms. Mackey is a graduate of Lehigh University where she received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

