Schmitt: Country must maintain its materials

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said. The efforts of the Department of Defense would form an integral part of his proposed materials policy, and "the essence of a White House-level articulated policy, there is no incentive for the Defense Department to take other than the cheapest path," he added.

Schmitt also blasted the government's commitment to "what is commonly called free trade," for the country's inability to build and maintain materials stockpiles. He defined free trade to be Congressmen's preoccupation with local political considerations and pressure from environmental groups against unrestricted mining and recycling. Most decisions on strategic materials are made "at the [Congressional] staff level," he noted.

Schmitt endorsed academic and corporate research into policy and problems relating to scarcity of materials, in response to a question from Morton C. Flannings Jr. "If the private sector does not participate, the public sector will not recognize the crisis," Schmitt noted.

The lecture was the second in a series sponsored by the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

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