



THE BUSINESS OF TECHNOLOGY

**New Episode for 'Star Wars' Alum;  
Battelle Ventures backs former SDI researcher's latest  
company, RemoteReality.**

By Sean Wolfe

He's always starting something.

Twenty years ago, James Ionson, the astrophysicist-turned-Cold Warrior, persuaded James Abrahamson, the U.S. Air Force general in charge of the Strategic Defense Initiative, to give him the funds to set up the Innovative Science and Technology (IST) program in 1985.

The IST subsequently became the research arm of SDI, and essentially acted as a strategic investor, sponsoring research in a wide range of fields—high energy lasers, optical computing, and superconductors among them. And Dr. Ionson had his hand on the cash spigot.

Times change: On Monday, Battelle Ventures announced it had backed Mr. Ionson's new company, the homeland security startup Remote Reality, with \$7.3 million in its first round of venture capital. RemoteReality's Intelligent Omni Video Systems™ (IOVS) are based on our unique technology architecture that combines our patented single-viewpoint catadioptric optics, high-resolution video cameras, and viewing and tracking software. [\(more\)](#)