soil-based process for onsite destruction of deadly chemicals. We now look forward to testing the ACDC scrubber with the PACWADS against actual chemical warfare agents in the coming months."

Following testing of the soil scrubber against actual CWA, which is anticipated for this spring or summer, DARPA plans to continue to develop a novel approach for the initial destruction process that would be simpler and more economical than the PACWADS torch. That system aims to use an internal combustion "reforming engine." The engine is designed such that, as part of the destruction process, the organic molecules act as a fuel and efficiently generate recoverable energy that can be converted to electricity, eliminating the need for power sources in remote locations.

Ultimately, ACDC envisions the complete CWA destruction and soil-scrubbing system to fit in the back of a standard military vehicle.

The ACDC soil-scrubber was developed for DARPA by the Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas. The PACWADS was developed by PyroGenesis Canada, Inc., Montreal, Canada. The effectiveness of the ACDC soil scrubber and PACWADS was independently verified and validated by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland, and NRT Methodologies, Tooele, Utah.

Image Caption: *The ACDC soil-scrubber (left) was recently connected to the Tactical Plasma Arc Chemical Warfare Agents Destruction System (right), successfully demonstrating a greater than 99.9999% removal of chemical warfare agent simulants, without creating any hazardous waste by-products. Click on image below for high-resolution.*

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Media with inquiries should contact DARPA Public Affairs at outreach@darpa.mil