



**WHSR / TSA SENIOR INDUSTRY FORUM SERIES:  
OFFICE OF SECURITY CAPABILITIES ENGAGEMENT GROUP**

**EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT DEPLOYMENT FOCUS GROUP  
MEETING REPORT  
MAY 6, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its second TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Effective and Efficient Deployment Focus Group (Deployment Group) meeting on May 6, 2013. Attendees consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

The meeting began with a recap of the items discussed during the last meeting. Industry participants revisited the distinction between “upstairs” (passenger screening) and “downstairs” (checked baggage screening) and how in most cases, a contract award focuses on either passenger or baggage and collaboration among the “upstairs” and “downstairs” team might contribute to greater efficiencies. In most cases, there will be separate deployment managers overseeing the passenger screening and baggage screening processes.

It was indicated that it is in TSA’s long term interest to explore the technology and infrastructure necessary to combine the “upstairs” and “downstairs” systems in efforts to reduce costs. The group discussed issues contributing to the variances in costs, and the need to look at the actual causes, not just the numbers, to learn about the issue.



Industry participants also inquired about the Security Technology Integrated Program (STIP). TSA issued a Sources Sought notice in Federal Business Opportunities ([www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov)) in late 2012 to “improve TSA's understanding of market capabilities, identify qualified vendors that are capable of providing analysis and design of the STIP implementation, and to accept ideas on how to efficiently and effectively procure this requirement.” The TSA SMEs refrained from discussing STIP in detail based upon its current recompetete status.

Industry participants also raised ongoing challenges facing TSA such as constrained budget environments and changes within the industry. An example of industry changes mentioned was the ongoing practice of airlines charging for checked bags, resulting in passengers having fewer checked bags and increasingly bringing only carry-on bags and the impact that practice has on revenue and security screening.

The meeting concluded by the industry participants deciding to further examine the distinction between “upstairs” and “downstairs” and ways to combine systems to reduce project management costs. Industry also would like to examine other costs such as those caused by delays in equipment deployments in an effort to provide best practices during constrained budget environments. The next meeting of the focus group is scheduled for July 22, 2013.