



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

INNOVATION FOCUS GROUP MEETING REPORT APRIL 25, 2013

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its second TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Innovation Focus Group (Innovation Group) meeting on April 25, 2013. Participants attending the meeting consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

The meeting began with a recap of the group's last meeting, including a review of the Idea Factory. According to TSA's website, Idea Factory was launched in 2007. "Idea Factory is a web-based tool that empowers all TSA employees to submit ideas, provide comments on how to improve new concepts, and rate ideas that should be recommended for implementation."

"The information generated through Idea Factory is then elevated to program managers and senior leaders to provide them with not only an opportunity to implement ideas that will positively impact TSA's mission, but gives them an unfiltered glimpse into the needs and opinions of 60,000+ TSA employees." (TSA website.) Idea Factory has been such a successful pilot, the program has been adopted by DHS HQ.

Innovation is one of TSA's core values and they are focused on creating a balance between internal and external innovation forums and the processes involved, along with ideas from various firms recognized for innovation. Industry participants raised



several ideas including tying innovative approaches to the procurement process and to solicit innovative ideas prior to the Request for Information (RFI) stage in the procurement process.

The meeting concluded by industry participants agreeing to create an Innovation Framework to submit to OSC. The purpose of the framework is to identify points at which any stakeholder (e.g., OSC employee, TSA user, vendor, or university) can submit an innovative idea and have it “heard.” Next steps include a data call of Innovation Group industry participants for successful tools, pilots, and best practices that they been involved with within their own companies and how those successes may translate to TSA/OSC.

The next meeting of the Innovation Focus Group is scheduled for June 19, 2013.