



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

**INNOVATION FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
JULY 23, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its fourth TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Innovation Focus Group (Innovation Group) meeting on July 23, 2013. Participants attending the meeting consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

The meeting kicked-off with a recap of the previous meeting. The group had agreed to create a framework to assist TSA in filtering through innovative ideas – to allow TSA to receive products on time, with decreased false positives, and in some cases allow for quick implementation. Industry participants indicated the group would be creating a framework to accept ideas and white papers.

The group also revisited TSA's success with the Ideas Factory. TSA asked its employees how to make the airport security operation better. It dubbed this effort the "The TSA Ideas Factory." It allows all TSA employees spread across hundreds of airports to raise ideas on-line and share them with colleagues who then can rate them as good ideas, or not. The system, viewed as a successful model, generates 300 new ideas every month. Four staff sort through the ideas and bring in the individuals with winning proposals to have them participate in implementing them.

Industry participants also discussed alternative methods for solving innovation problems such as crowdsourcing. An industry participant raised Innocentive as



such an example. Innocentive is a Massachusetts based company that focuses on crowdsourcing innovation problems and creates open / online competitions. Innocentive currently reports it has over 300,000 solvers in its network.

(www.innocentive.com)

The Innovation Group also discussed distinction of roles between fostering innovation and research and development (R&D). TSA continues to build its relationship with the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate as it does not allow for R&D in its charter, nor is it allocated the funds to conduct R&D, however it could do an inter-agency partnership with S&T.

The group concluded the meeting by agreeing to continue its work researching methods to allow for effective feedback mechanisms with the goal of capturing the meaningful ideas.

The Innovation Group, as with all of the OSC focus groups, is moderated and supported administratively as a program of the Washington Homeland Security Roundtable. Industry participation, support, and contributions are key and the TSA representatives are acting solely as subject matter experts.