



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

### **SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT FOCUS GROUP**

**April 1, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) launched the TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Small Business Engagement Focus Group (Small Business Group). This Small Business Group is one of seven focus groups created out of the WHSR / OSC Engagement Group.

WHSR hosted the first WHSR / OSC Engagement Group meeting on November 27, 2012. Representatives from OSC and industry participated in the meeting to kick off an on-going exchange of information, ideas and best practices concerning TSA's security capabilities, specifically focusing on the OSC's strategic plan and other areas of strategic importance. Focus group activities may be used by OSC to inform the development of their strategic plan along with other areas of operation.

The Small Business Group held its first meeting on April 1, 2013. It consists of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA. This group will meet monthly through March 2014.

TSA began the meeting with an overview of TSA small business goals and metrics. The group discussed existing efforts at TSA to attract small businesses and also discussed some challenges OSC faces as it tries to meet its small business goals. Such challenges highlighted were the high investment costs of equipment development



and testing which prove to be barriers to small businesses. The industry participants engaged in a brainstorming session of possible initiatives OSC could leverage and launch to attract small businesses. Participants highlighted several existing programs elsewhere within the government that OSC could leverage. The industry participants also raised several new ideas and initiatives that OSC could explore to encourage small businesses to work with TSA.

The meeting concluded by the industry participants deciding to further brainstorm ideas and initiatives to attract small businesses. Initial first steps include a data call of Small Business Group participants to provide WHSR staff with ideas and best practices to examine in detail at future meetings.