



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

**SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
August 14, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its fourth TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Small Business Engagement Focus Group (Small Business Group) meeting on August 14, 2013. Participants attending the meeting consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

TSA provided a brief recap of the Small Business Industry Day (Industry Day) that was held on August 7th. The Industry Day was announced through Federal BizOps (www.fbo.gov). The session was described as a “speed dating” like format with seven tables and seven companies. Small business participants sat together at each of the tables and the Prime Contractors rotated around the tables. Two companies from the Small Business Group were represented at the Industry Day. Both of those individuals discussed impressions of the session and commented they both thought the format for the Industry Day was effective. However, both individuals commented that they would have liked to have seen additional opportunities built into the day for small business networking. Additionally, one of the individuals offered that at his table, the small businesses asked each of the prime contractors the same questions – are you having trouble finding small businesses and what was the nature of that trouble. He indicated three themes surfaced: HUBzone, geographical constraints, and networking.



TSA distributed the results of the Industry Day survey taken at the end of the small business session. An industry participant raised an observation from previous Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Industry Days in which CBP also invites project managers to participate and provide overviews. Another industry participant echoed that observation and indicated the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) also includes project managers and has found the overview to be useful.

TSA mentioned that OSC's Test and Evaluation team will be hosting an industry day in September. A review of the OSC Strategic Plan will be included in the agenda.

Industry participants also discussed the difficulty small companies have doing business with TSA. However, OSC has several initiatives underway to address those challenges. TSA cited the example of current efforts to create an OSC portal and an outline of the portal was distributed to the group for review and discussion. The goal is to launch the portal by December 2013. OSC will also publish *Prospectus* – a quarterly magazine that is an initiative resulting from the OSC Strategic Plan. TSA indicated the Small Business Group would be given the opportunity to review the portal prior to its launch so the group can provide constructive feedback.

Next Steps

The group agreed they would continue to brainstorm issues related to how small companies can do business with TSA as well as what mechanism may be helpful to small businesses to incorporate into the OSC website portal.