



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

**SMALL BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
November 21, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted the fifth TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Small Business Focus Group meeting on November 21, 2013. Participants attending the meeting consisted of representatives from Industry, WHSR, and TSA.

The focus of the meeting was on the new TSA Focused BAA Process. The intent of the BAA process is to provide a structure for soliciting and communicating concepts that TSA/OSC is looking for, with a goal to execute on a well vetted project at the conclusion.

The entire BAA process will be executed over 6 months and in two phases per year. The first round will most likely include 1 – 2 projects and then scale from that point. The primary focus of evaluation will be the path to market for the proposed concept. As part of the new process, there will be a whitepaper submission and an Industry Day. During the Industry Day, each team lead will present their projects and how it aligns with the strategic direction of TSA. There will be a review board that sorts through all of the submissions and communicates to the companies whether or not they make it to the next phase. The process includes several specific communication points to keep submitters informed.



Industry participants raised several questions regarding procurement mechanisms and any potential limitations to small business to participate. TSA indicated that they will use a variety of procurement mechanisms and they will make the process as open and transparent as possible and not have up front limitations to participation.

Industry commented that the new process is a great way for TSA to engage small business and non-traditional companies that have not previously done business with TSA. In addition, Industry provided feedback to TSA that the new process provides a reasonable amount of time and required effort, especially since the process has defined time periods and defined measurements.

The next focus group meeting will be in January and will focus on the new OSC portal and website.