



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

**SYSTEMS ENGINEERING FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
APRIL 23, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its second TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Systems Engineering Focus Group (Systems Group) meeting on April 23, 2013. Attendees consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

The meeting began with a recap of the last meeting's discussion items and takeaways. The industry participants initially discussed the differences between traditional and agile systems engineering frameworks. Participants noted that a traditional framework is plan based and typically a "waterfall" model – meaning it's a sequential design process. This framework involved detailed regulations and aimed to squeeze out uncertainty up front. It also aimed to present capabilities to users immediately. In contrast, a more agile framework allows for, among other things, providing more functionality to users faster.

Industry participants then suggested how an agile framework, if leveraged by TSA, could have beneficial results. The group noted that an agile organization does not necessarily equal agile techniques. An agile organization does, however, allow for more accelerated techniques.



This agile model was applied to USCIS and resulted in a quick response and longer term structure. The System now accommodates multiple threats with the design focused on speed, but not at the expense of capabilities. They were able to reduce costs through multi-distribution, and to build an arch of the system to enable analysis.

The meeting concluded by the industry participants deciding to brainstorm ideas and initiatives related to systems engineering. WHSR will request a data call of group participants to provide WHSR staff with ideas and best practices as well as lessons learned to examine in detail at future meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2013.