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

EFFICIENT TESTING & EVALUATION FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
MAY 1, 2013

On May 1, 2013, the Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its second TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Efficient Testing and Evaluation Focus Group (T & E) meeting.   Participants attending the May 1st meeting consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

Following up the discussion from the group's first meeting, the participants discussed the T & E process guide document that was circulated to stakeholders for comment. TSA received various comments on the document and additional content had been added to the guide, yet it was indicated that no fundamental changes had been made to the document as a result of the feedback. According to TSA, the document should be released in final form the week of May 6th, 2013 with the understanding that the process guide is dynamic and will evolve over time.

During the course of the meeting, industry participants focused on several themes, including increased transparency and more efficient cycle times. OSC highlighted its efforts to review the qualification data packages (QDPs) required of vendors to see how more robust packages may assist in reducing the cycle time. It was also mentioned that additional efforts were underway at TSA and DHS's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) that include exploring third party vendor testing as well as creating possible test sets to be used by vendors to develop and then submit to TSA for verification.

According to the third party testing Request for Information (RFI) that was released in December 2012, "This concept will allow Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to assess their systems against TSA requirements, enhance and mature their technology readiness, and subsequently reduce the time required to proceed through each phase of testing because systems that successfully transition will be more capable of meeting TSA operational effectiveness and suitability requirements." OEMs and interested third party vendors had a deadline of early January to submit feedback. OSC shared that TSA received fourteen white papers as a result of the RFI from the private sector, government entities, and academia.

The meeting concluded by the industry participants deciding to brainstorm ideas, concepts and best practices related to transparency and testing cycle times. WHSR will request a data call of T & E Group participants to provide WHSR staff with ideas and best practices to examine in detail at future meetings. The next T&E Focus Group meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2013.