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

EFFICIENT TESTING & EVALUATION FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
JUNE 17, 2013

On June 17, 2013, the Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted its third TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Efficient Testing and Evaluation Focus Group (T & E) meeting. Participants attending the June 17th meeting consisted of representatives from industry, WHSR and TSA.

At the beginning of the meeting, Richard Helmuth, from the SI Organization was introduced as the group's industry leader. Participants were reminded the T&E group, as with all of the OSC focus groups, are moderated and supported administratively as a program of the Washington Homeland Security Roundtable. Industry participation, support, and contributions are key and the TSA representatives are acting solely as subject matter experts.

Following up the discussion from the group's previous meeting, the group discussed the T & E process guide document that had been circulated to stakeholders for comment. Originally, OSC believed the guide would be released in early May. Individuals may request a copy of the guide through FebBizOps[1]. The T&E guide is a living document and TSA will still be accepting comments. OSC elaborated that the

---

[1] FedBizOps Link to T&E Guide
https://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=25c2638aed5abbee6c6ead87d215bd09&tab=core&_cview=0

guide does not include a detailed description of the process but rather a description of the systems flow.

During the course of the meeting, industry participants focused on several themes, including increased transparency and more efficient cycle times. Industry participants raised the issue of qualification data packages (QDPs) required of vendors which had been discussed in previous meetings. One participant representing manufacturers mentioned while manufacturers receive feedback and conduct lessons learned, he still feels there is little guidance as to what a QDP should look like. He added that while a QDP may be technically compliant, he thinks that feedback could be more robust to better inform vendors during the process.

It was also noted that operational requirements should drive specifications and while TSA currently does not provide that to vendors, it plans to in the future. The ultimate end goal is to establish a dialogue with vendors earlier in the testing life cycle to assist in reducing the cycle time and increase transparency.

The need for additional communication was also raised by industry participants during the course of the discussion. OSC raised that there is a great deal of testing scheduled outlined by OSC and Acquisitions. Industry responded that if TSA has dates planned out, industry needs to know and if it changes, a detailed notice should be published to make sure all aware. When pressed on the issue, participants indicated that a contractor or vendor did not need to know why a priority changed, just that it has. An industry representative offered that getting the Development Test and Evaluation Plans (DT&E Plans) provided vendors with great feedback but currently

there is no requirement to get into that – so the DT&E plans are much more art than science. It was noted that while DT&E plans testing is such a dynamic process that the plan is constantly changing. Additionally it is up to the sponsor to determine when a system has reached a level of maturity where it is useful to do developmental testing.

The group raised a list of other issues to be discussed at future T&E Focus Group meetings:

1. Robust Qualification Data Packages;
2. T&E Process Moving to S&T;
3. Development process – including having Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) take more responsibility on the front end;
4. Better defined requirements for third party testing; and
5. OSC Strategic Plan which includes some initiatives related to T&E. The Strategy is scheduled to be approved by the end of June and will be useful to the T&E Focus Group going forward.

The meeting concluded by the SMEs agreeing to provide process flows and process maps to industry participants over the course of the next few weeks. The T&E Focus Group participants will review the targeted areas in the test plans as a team and provide feedback to the SMEs. WHSR also agreed to distribute to participants major issue areas in the form of bullet points to generate some debate and discussion at future meetings. The next T&E Focus Group meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2013.