



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

**TESTING & EVALUATION FOCUS GROUP  
MEETING REPORT  
November 20, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted the fifth TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Testing and Evaluation Focus Group (T&E) meeting on November 20, 2013. Participants attending the meeting consisted of representatives from Industry, WHSR, and TSA.

The group began with a recap of the last meeting and the areas that the group should focus on going forward. The discussion focused primarily on the OSC T&E process map and how to improve or enhance the process. TSA explained some of the challenges in working with Industry. For example, vendors will wait until the day before factory acceptance testing to send in documents. In many cases, the contract states the required time frames for sending in documentation prior to acceptance testing, however the time frames are frequently missed, which requires simultaneous testing and documentation review. This typically leads to greater inefficiencies and ineffectiveness in the T&E process and lengthier wait times for Industry.

TSA is exploring the idea of incentives and penalties dependent on the amount of retesting that they perform. This constant retesting loop is one of the biggest challenges, so they are looking at ways to incentivize vendors to submit the documentation earlier in order to facilitate streamlined testing.



The group also discussed the benefit of having test data sets in advance. While this would be helpful to Industry as a standard, challenges exist with creating standard test data sets because they are typically technology dependent. TSA shared that test plans were just published on the Federal Business Opportunities website as sample documents and they encouraged Industry to review them.

TSA is working on a second version of the process guide and map, which is approximately 80% complete. Once they have the document ready, they will share broadly with Industry for feedback. TSA representatives shared their long-term vision for the T&E program including the need to limit or eliminate the inefficiencies in the testing process. They expressed interest in hearing Industry perspective on certified third party testing as well as ideas on consolidating testing sites and creating a T&E test center.

The T&E focus group will focus on those specific areas at the next meeting on December 16, 2013.