



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

**TESTING & EVALUATION FOCUS GROUP
MEETING REPORT
December 16, 2013**

The Washington Homeland Security Roundtable (WHSR) hosted the sixth TSA Office of Security Capabilities (OSC) Testing and Evaluation Focus Group (T&E) meeting on December 16, 2013. Participants attending the meeting consisted of representatives from Industry, WHSR, and TSA.

The group began with a recap of the last meeting and set the focus of the discussion on brainstorming ideas for a long term strategy of T&E. Especially important is becoming more efficient in the process of testing new capabilities. Potential solutions to decreasing the time it takes to test are really focused around the time and funding required. The significant time and expense is driven by tests occurring in multiple locations. The group discussed the merits of various solutions.

Solutions discussed include introduction of third party testing into the process or consolidation of testing into a single T&E campus. The entire group agreed that the right solution is somewhere in the middle of these two ideas, and would need to have Industry support in order to work. The most important evaluation to be done is a cost versus benefit analysis. The group spent the majority of the meeting discussing these two ideas, as the implications of both were very complex. For example, third party testing could work very well for testing easily found materials, but may not be feasible for very specific and expensive materials. A third party may not have the business



case to maintain a very broad inventory of materials, so it would take time to figure out which portions of the testing process could be done by a third party.

Another portion of the discussion was on the retesting process itself. There are some efforts ongoing to minimize cycles between two locations during certain portions of the process. An idea is to develop a test kit for this portion that can be sent to vendors that would replace some of the work that currently two TSA test centers need to do together. This would reduce the wait time for vendors to get through this portion of testing and thus impact and shorten the overall testing process.

The T&E focus group will focus on weighing the pros and cons of co-locating testing facilities at the next meeting on January 28, 2014.