

Doing business with the DHS Directorate of Science & Technology

Q. Where can I find information on current DHS research business opportunities and programs that solicit proposals for research, development, testing and evaluation activities?

[DHS and its agencies](#) operate numerous programs that make science and technology investments or conduct research that creates new opportunities for the private sector. The [DHS Directorate of Science and Technology \(S&T\)](#) is the Department's primary research, development, testing and evaluation (RDT&E) agency.

The S&T report "Science and Technology for a Safer Nation" provides a concise [introduction to the Directorate's programs](#). S&T's [Research Business Opportunities](#) page provides access programs at S&T and other DHS agencies that fund R&D proposals from private industry.

The [S&T Solicitations Portal](#) provides access to current S&T solicitations. S&T's [Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency \(HSARPA\)](#) sponsors Broad Agency Announcements, including a permanent [Long Range](#) solicitation, and manages S&T's [Small Business Innovation Research \(SBIR\) Program](#).

S&T provides funding for [RDT&E contracts](#) awarded by the [Technology Support Working Group](#), and aligns its investments with R&D projects funded by other DHS agencies, including the [Domestic Nuclear Detection Office](#) and the [Office of Health Affairs' Weapons of Mass Destruction and Biodefense Office](#).

Q. Where can I find detailed information on how S&T plans to spend its budget over the next several years?

The "[S&T Congressional Justification for FY 2010](#)" describes the investments S&T plans next year. The "[Five Year Research and Development Roadmap: 2008-2013](#)" (August 2008) sets out the spending each S&T division. A March 2009 prepared statement of [Acting S&T Undersecretary Brad Buswell](#) describes S&T's objectives and investment priorities.

Projects funded by S&T's [Technical Divisions](#) fund R&D are focused on solving the problems described in the S&T "[DHS High-Priority Technology Needs](#)" (May 2009). The following links provide information on each Division's current priorities and the R&D it is funding this year:

- [Border and Maritime Division](#) (sandt.bordersmaritime@dhs.gov) and [current projects](#)
- [Chemical and Biological Division](#) (sandt.chembio@dhs.gov) and its [current projects](#).
- [Explosives Division's](#) (sandt.explosives@dhs.gov) and its [current projects](#).
- [Command and Control and Interoperability Division](#) (sandt.cci@dhs.gov.) and its [current projects](#).
- [Infrastructure and Geophysical Division](#) (sandt.igd@dhs.gov) and its [current projects](#)
- [Human Factors Division](#) (sandt.hfd@dhs.gov.) and its [current projects](#).

Q. Where can I find information on S&T programs that help companies commercialize

new products for DHS agencies?

The [“Harnessing the Valuable Experience and Resources of the Private Sector for the Public Good: DHS’s Entry into Commercialization”](#) presentation (February 2009) describes various S&T programs that help companies deliver new products to the homeland security market.

The S&T [Office of Commercialization](#) manages an extensive outreach program for the private sector, providing [regular updates on S&T activities](#) and [e-mail alerts on new business opportunities](#). S&T conducts numerous [S&T national and regional conferences](#) where entrepreneurs, investors and researchers can meet with key DHS officials.

Q. Where can I find information that will help my company focus its product development efforts on new capabilities that DHS agencies need now or will want to buy in the near future?

S&T’s [Office of Transition](#) (SandT.Transition@dhs.gov) helps companies that have developed [critically needed new capabilities](#) that can be matured and validated within three years and incorporated into DHS systems. The [“System Efficacy through Commercialization, Utilization, Relevance and Efficiency Program”](#) (contact 202-254-6749) focuses on developing [Operational Requirements Documents](#) that describe specific capabilities required by DHS agencies.

The [FutureTech Program](#) is responsible for helping companies complete the development of innovative new capabilities that can be finished within three years. This document, [“FutureTech: Guidance to Understanding Future DHS S&T Critical Research/Innovation Focus,”](#) describes the program’s priorities.

Q. Where can I find information that will help my company develop products for local and state agencies with first responder or homeland security missions?

The [“First Responder Capstone IPT: Delivering Solutions to First Responders”](#) report (May 2009) describes S&T’s programs that focus on local and state agencies. They are managed by S&T’s [Interagency and First Responder Programs Division](#) (SandT-Interagency@hq.dhs.gov).

S&T also funds contracts awarded under the [Tech Solutions program](#) to develop [new capabilities for local and state agencies](#) and the [SAFECom program](#) for R&D focused on [interoperable communication systems](#).

S&T works closely with the [Interagency Advisory Board \(IAB\) on Interoperability and Standards](#) (IAB), an organization that includes a broad cross-section of local, state and federal agencies. The IAB publishes an [Annual list of R&D priorities for local and state agencies](#), as do other members of the IAB, including the [National Institute of Justice](#).

Q. Where can I find information that will ensure my organization is conducting basic and advanced research that is focused on S&T’s long-term priorities?

The [“Basic Research Focus Areas”](#) report (2009) describe the Directorate’s long-term goals for

harnessing science, engineering and technologies to support the missions of DHS agencies. S&T's [Office of Research](#) manages the basic and advanced research conducted in [government laboratories](#) and sponsored at [University Centers of Excellence](#) that is focused on confocused on achieving the [long-term goals of S&T's technical divisions](#).

[S&T Organizational Resources Manual](#) provides detailed information on how the Directorate's offices, divisions and programs operate. The [National Academy of Public Administrators \(NAPA\)](#), the [Congressional Research Service](#) and the [DHS Office of Inspector General](#) have [produced independent](#) assessments of how S&T manages its R&D investments.

Q. Where can I find information on programs at S&T and other DHS agencies that will help my company gets its products approved for use by local, state and federal agencies?

Through its "[System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders \(SAVER\) Process](#)," (August 2009), S&T conducts objective [evaluations of commercial homeland security products](#) that are made available to [decision makers at homeland security agencies](#). DNDO's [Graduated Rad/Nuc Detector Evaluation and Reporting \(GRaDERSM\)](#) Program provides a similar service.

S&T manages the [Safety Act program](#) at DHS that encourages private sector development of new homeland security capabilities through a certification process that grants special liability exemptions. [This presentation](#) describes S&T's process for assessing the safety and performance of a product and certifying that it is Qualified Antiterrorism Technology for [DHS's Approved Products List for Homeland Security](#).

S&T's [Testing & Evaluation and Standards Division](#) conducts a variety of quality assurance programs that help companies demonstrate the readiness of new capabilities. These included independent assessments that the Division provides the [DHS Acquisition Review Board](#) on advanced technologies being acquired for large-scale DHS programs, and the assessments that the [Transportation Security Laboratory](#) provides of next-generation explosive detection systems

Q. Where can I find information on the Department's adoption of technical standards for homeland security products and involvement with Standards Development Organizations?

The [Annual Report 2007/2008](#) of S&T's [Office of Standards](#) describes S&T activities that touch every sector of the homeland security market. S&T manages the Department's process for [adopting equipment standards](#), supports the [Homeland Security Standards Database](#) and is the Department's primary liaison with the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#).

S&T works closely with the [American National Institute of Standards-Homeland Security Standards Panel, ANSI-HSSP](#) and supports its public-private sector meetings on the development of standards for new homeland security products. The next major ANSI-HSSP conference, "[Homeland Security Standards and their Business Application in the Private Sector](#)", is for Oct. 21, 2009 in Washington D. C.

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