Biometrics and Identity Management Program

Science and Technology

CHALLENGE: SECURING POINTS OF ENTRY

The strategic plans of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Components include increasing the use of biometric screening of travelers at air, land, and sea ports of entry (POE). This is to address security concerns and to facilitate lawful and legitimate travel by scaling operations to handle traveler volume and to strengthen traveler vetting.

THE NEED FOR SECURE AND SCALABLE SCREENING SOLUTIONS

As DHS considers enhancements to biometric screening operations for people at its POEs, transportation security checkpoints and secure facilities, it is important to employ a comprehensive systems engineering approach to identify opportunities for changes to existing operations and to present anticipated improvements, consequences, and costs of new solutions. The DHS Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Biometrics and Identity Management Program comprise two projects that provide this holistic approach.

The S&T Biometric and Identity Screening Project increases the nation's security at POEs while expediting legitimate travel and improving passenger experience. The efforts establish and leverage innovative and robust science-based capabilities to provide DHS and its federal partners with data and knowledge products that inform requirements and acquisition decisions.

BIOMETRIC CONCEPTS CHALLENGE: PROVIDING SERVICES ACROSS DHS

The Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM) provides biometric match, store, share, and analyze services to DHS and mission partners through OBIM's Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology (HART) system.

IMPROVING OBIM HART SERVICES: ADAPTIVE BIOMETRIC SOLUTIONS

As DHS Components leverage biometrics at unprecedented and increasing levels, the OBIM Futures Identity (FI) Office must remain in the forefront to determine what next generation identity technologies need to be incorporated into HART.

The S&T Biometric and Identity Concept Project leverages S&T's full matrix of services to pursue research, development, test, and evaluation of emerging biometric capability to fulfill OBIM FI's validated needs for next generation identity technologies.

S&T conducts research and development across the Directorate matrix with industry, national labs, and academia to provide:

- Next Generation Identity concepts and prototypes
- Standards Support for new biometric modalities
- Store/Match/Share (SMS) Pilot support

The project meets OBIM FI office's overall goals and priorities to keep pace with rapid advances in biometric technologies and assist OBIM by influencing, identifying, and evaluating new biometric modalities to better enable DHS stakeholders' operational missions.

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