

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 authorized the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), to establish one or more Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs) to provide independent analysis of homeland security issues, or to carry out other responsibilities under the Act. In 2009, DHS S&T established the Homeland Security Systems Engineering and Development Institute (HSSEDI) and selected the MITRE Corporation to be its operator through a full and open competition. HSSEDI is now in its third consecutive, five-year indefinite delivery, indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract with MITRE, extending from March 23, 2020 to March 22, 2025.

PURPOSE AND CAPABILITIES

HSSEDI's purpose is to provide specialized independent and objective technical and systems engineering expertise to DHS Components, program managers, and operating elements in addressing national homeland security system development issues related to the development and delivery of novel DHS capabilities.

HSSEDI works with DHS to apply a systems approach that supports mission outcomes and the organizational processes needed to operate a large, diverse organization. As an FFRDC, HSSEDI is independent and objective – making it well-positioned to help coordination among federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Capability focus areas include:

- Acquisition Planning and Development
- Emerging Threats, Concept Exploration, Experimentation, and Evaluation
- Information Technology and Communications
- Cyber Solutions/Operations

- Systems Engineering, System Architecture and Integration
- Technical Quality and Performance
- Independent Test and Evaluation



HSSEDI program objectives are generally achieved through the recommendation of new technologies; development of prototypes and proof-of-concept demonstrations; review of systems design optimization and trade-space considerations; development of integrating architectures and frameworks; application of enterprise systems engineering principles for improved interoperability and information sharing; establishment of technical standards, measures, and best practices; and development of realistic test environments and scenarios.

CONNECT WITH HSSEDI

If you are interested in learning more about HSSEDI's capabilities, please contact the FFRDC PMO at ST.FFRDC@hq.dhs.gov. As the managing office, the FFRDC PMO executes all activities for accessing HSSEDI's system engineering and integration expertise, and helps sponsors develop task orders to ultimately achieve DHS's mission of protecting the homeland.

HSSEDI
Homeland Security Systems Engineering & Development Institute™