

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Modernization



Homeland Security

Science and Technology

DHS ICE PROVIDES INTEGRITY TO EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Each year, more than one million foreign students and exchange visitors enter the United States to attend one of 9,000 educational institutions or participate in one of 1,500 authorized cultural exchange programs. To support the legal entry of these individuals into the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), in partnership with the U.S. Department of State (DOS), maintains the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

SEVIS tracks and monitors nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors. Records of these nonimmigrant admissions and continued participation in these educational programs are maintained in SEVIS. Further, SEVIS enables SEVP to assure proper reporting and record keeping by schools and exchange visitor programs, thereby ensuring data currency and integrity. SEVIS also provides a mechanism for student and exchange visitor status violators to be identified so that appropriate enforcement is taken (i.e., denial of admission, denial of benefits, or removal from the United States). SEVIS data is shared across DHS, including with ICE and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, as well as with the DOS and other government partners.

LEGACY SEVIS SYSTEM REQUIRES MODERNIZATION

To enhance the security and infrastructure of the legacy SEVIS system, SEVP began a modernization effort. At the program's most recent Acquisition Decision event, the Acquisition Review Board asked SEVP to update the program life cycle cost estimate (LCCE), an acquisition document which captures the cost of the system, including development, deployment, operations and maintenance, and disposition.

S&T SUPPORTED SEVIS LCCE UPDATE

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer Cost Analysis Division asked the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Capability Development Support, Operations, and Requirements Analysis team to help with the SEVIS LCCE update.

The DHS S&T team, supported by Technomics, Inc., updated the original LCCE methodology to accurately gauge the resourcing costs of Agile program development and migration from the legacy SEVIS to a modernized system.

The LCCE update carried out by the S&T team accounts for inflation indices, awarded contract values, labor rates for government and contractor employees, schedule shifts, and cybersecurity table-top requirements. The results are documented in a detailed automated cost estimating-integrated tools model and trace all associated investments to a granular level.

LCCE UPDATE BOOSTS TRANSPARENCY, PLANNING

The DHS S&T-supported 2018 SEVIS LCCE update allowed ICE to meet the Acquisition Review Board deadline and continue with their system modernization efforts. An updated LCCE allows SEVP to confidently plan current modernization execution and justify future funding.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- DHS Office of the Chief Financial Officer
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- ARA, Inc., Huntsville, Alabama
- Technomics, Inc., Arlington, Virginia

