About Apex AEER
The Apex Air Entry/Exit Re-Engineering (AEER) program is a multi-year effort within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that will inform the transformation of the international arrivals process and the implementation of a biometric capability to verify the departure of foreign nationals leaving from U.S. airports of entry.

Through the Apex AEER program, DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are collaborating to transform CBP operations by leveraging commercially available technologies, re-engineering current processes, and introducing new operational capabilities.

The Apex AEER program will identify, develop, test, and evaluate new concepts of operation to enhance and facilitate traveler-screening processes. There are three primary drivers for Apex AEER:

- Increase security while facilitating trade and travel
- Implement operational capabilities required by federal legislation
- Support the National Travel and Tourism Strategy

Redefining the Federal Inspection Entry Process
The Apex AEER program is assessing the existing arrivals process into the U.S. as well as systems implemented by foreign governments to identify areas for improvement and best practices. The results of these assessments will inform ongoing initiatives including, but not limited to:

- Automated counting and measuring capabilities for real-time situational awareness of arriving passenger volumes and dwell times,
- Use of mobile and wearable technology to provide more flexibility and agility for international arrivals process, and
- Communication mechanisms to prepare and instruct travelers of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds to facilitate more effective inspections.

These enhancements will increase CBP operational effectiveness by enabling CBP officers to dynamically and flexibly respond to unexpected surges and overloaded queues in the Federal Inspection Service areas.

Collaborating with industry stakeholders is a critical component of air entry initiatives. Accordingly, laboratory evaluations, scenario-based tests, and operational field trials will be conducted in a phased approach with CBP and industry stakeholders to analyze effects on cost, traveler throughput, impact to airport operations, and quality of the traveler experience.