

## International Forum to Advance First Responder Innovation

### Lack of consolidated global capability gaps limits innovation in the first responder market

First responders around the globe share a common mission to ensure the safety and security of the people they serve. They are often asked to respond to complex incidents like the Deep Water Horizon oil spill and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster. To respond more effectively, safely and efficiently to both small and large scale emergencies, the world's first responders need technologically advanced tools and equipment. However, there is no centralized mechanism for them to identify and discuss shared needs or capability gaps. In addition, first responder agencies tend to purchase tools and equipment in small quantities. These two facts provide little incentive for industry to develop and market new technologies.

The lack of consolidated global capability gaps for first responders, along with limited purchasing, has resulted in an inadequate level of innovation. This leads to an insufficient volume of research and development (R&D) being conducted in the first responder market. To help mitigate this, the Forum will seek to consolidate gaps and expand the global first responder market.

### Forum will provide first responders worldwide with a greater voice

In 2014, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, along with its international partners, established the International Forum to Advance First Responder Innovation. As the Forum grows, it will serve as a forum to discuss shared first responder capability gaps, provide a platform for collaboration on R&D initiatives and solutions, characterize global first responder markets, and educate first responders about available technology. A clearly defined list of common capability gaps, along with a true understanding of the global market will provide the international first responder community a greater voice and will help motivate industry to create advanced technologies for first responders and deliver them at affordable prices.

### Building on existing partnerships to create a global response to first responder needs

The Forum is composed of representatives from the United States and Australia, Canada, European Commission, Finland, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. To

identify specific needs and challenges, it will leverage independent analyses of purchasing trends, state-of-the-art technologies and member input. Ultimately, the Forum will use these assessments to inform its members of optimal engagement paths for advancing the state of first responder technology across the globe.

While the Forum's primary goal is to aggregate shared capability gaps for industry to consider when developing and marketing technology, members will also have the opportunity to work together and advance common goals.

The Forum will meet regularly to collaborate on ways to invest R&D funding that will increase availability of affordable innovative technologies for first responders.



International Forum to Advance  
**FIRST RESPONDER INNOVATION**

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### Capitalizing on the impact of force multipliers

The Forum will dramatically increase the effectiveness of making affordable, innovative technology available to first responders. Participating countries will have an opportunity to pool resources for addressing and resolving responder technological challenges, allowing for more R&D to be accomplished in a shorter period of time. Additionally, aggregating the user base of first responders across the globe gives new critical mass to the market.

### Next steps for the International Forum to Advance First Responder Innovation

The Forum launched to the public at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Chicago from October 24-26, 2015. At this conference the Forum presented an initial picture of the global responder market and a common set of global responder capability gaps. Together, Forum members will help to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and safety of first responders around the globe, resulting in improved security for all nations and citizens.