

DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Interagency Technology Exploration: Hands-on Discovery and Exposure to Emerging Technologies

Addressing Emerging Threats and Mission Requirements for DHS and First Responders

The Department of Homeland Security and the first responder communities are building a technical body of knowledge through hands-on exposure to advanced and emerging technologies that address capability gaps through understanding key variables, relationships, and conditions.

The Joint Interagency Field Exploration (JIFX) setting offers government, private sector, academic and non-profit technologists an opportunity to engage directly with DHS, DoD, federal civilian agencies and first responders in a semi-structured learning environment promoting collaboration, and innovation while fusing interactive community networking and knowledge sharing activities.

The JIFX environment is a unique opportunity for developers to engage with end-users in new or emerging concepts and solutions. By interacting directly with end-users in a replicated operational environment, technologists are able to leverage the knowledge gained to improve or enhance their products, steer development to requirements and reduce the time required to transition a technology; often saving millions of dollars in R&D.

Engaging the Private Sector and Academia

Each quarter, a JIFX event utilizes different methods of interaction, all of which focus on end user input. This reflects and addresses the most complex challenges identified by those directly engaged in homeland defense and security.

Approximately 90 days before each JIFX event, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, with our partners in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Naval Postgraduate School, publishes a Request for Information (RFI). The RFI seeks concept papers addressing specific technology challenges.

Select respondents are subsequently invited to participate in the JIFX experiments. The selection of respondents is based on the relationship of the technology to a particular class or level of capability that can be provided to the mission-sets in the RFI. Other considerations include: technical maturity; relevance of or adaptability to missions; and relevance to current operational needs.

Enabling Collaboration and Acceleration to End Users

The JIFX success is enhancing the discovery of technologies and operation and performance capabilities.

Major objectives are to:

1. explore the viability of new concepts as solutions for identified current and future capabilities
2. provide a venue for short-fused experimentation requirements
3. explore concepts of operation and human systems integration
4. explore technologies and solutions in support of whole-of-government, humanitarian and disaster relief, critical infrastructure/key resources protection; and interagency communications

To access the current RFI follow this link:

<http://www.nps.edu/Academics/Schools/GSOIS/Departments/IS/Research/FX/JIFX/JIFX.html>



Members of DHS S&T's First Responders Group interact with technologists at a recent JIFX event Photo: Jim Grove, DHS S&T

Our Partners:

- DHS components
- DoD combatant commands
- Naval Postgraduate School
- Federal agencies and departments



Homeland Security

Science and Technology

To learn more about the Joint Interagency Field Exploration contact Mr Jim Grove, Interagency Office Regional Senior Advisor at james.grove@hq.dhs.gov.