



**Homeland  
Security**

Science and Technology

# Highlight

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**



System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions.

Located within the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) of DHS, the SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment;
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life- and cost-saving asset to DHS, as well as to federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office  
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: [saver@dhs.gov](mailto:saver@dhs.gov)

Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

## Mobile Radioactive Material Search Systems

Due to the increased threat of terrorism, radiation protection and detection methods and technologies have been pushed to the forefront of emergency responder training and preparation efforts. Many agencies and jurisdictions have become more interested in interdiction methods and large-area scanning methods. As a result, one of the current areas of growth is mobile radiation detection equipment. A mobile radiation detection system allows a large area to be surveyed with expert detection efficiencies.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, National Security Technologies, LLC (NSTec) has conducted a comparative assessment of mobile radiation detection systems for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, NSTec conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment and produced the *Mobile Radioactive Material Search Systems Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Mobile Radioactive Material Search Systems Focus Group Recommendations* report.

NSTec also developed a TechNote on mobile radiation detection equipment. The *Mobile Radiation Detection Systems TechNote* details the different types of systems, advantages and disadvantages, product specifications, applications, and cost considerations.

All reports in the series, including the *Mobile Radioactive Material Search Systems Assessment Report*, will be located on the SAVER Web site (<https://www.rkb.us/SAVER>) as they become available.

Information on other technology being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.



**Spectral Radiation Detection System**