

DHS Science & Technology Directorate (S&T)

S&T Urban Operational Experimentation (OpEx)

Hosted by the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory

What is Urban OpEx?

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Urban Operational Experimentation (OpEx) will provide first responders with the opportunity to experiment with new and emerging technologies in realistic, urban settings. This event will occur in Fall 2016 and will combine demonstrations of leading-edge technologies with application-based field assessments throughout the New York City metropolitan area.

S&T's First Responders Group's National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) will host S&T Urban OpEx with participation from a broad range of federal, state, local, academic and private sector partners. S&T Urban OpEx presents an important opportunity for DHS to gain a greater understanding of the operational needs and requirements of local first responders, while enabling first responder agencies to assess new technologies.

Capability gaps and potential technologies will be reviewed with New York City first responder agencies to ensure the S&T Urban OpEx best addresses local responders' needs, interests and priorities, and benefit the homeland security enterprise as a whole. Participating first responders will train on and experiment with technologies they have identified as possible solutions to meet priority capability gaps.

Participants will also be in the unique position to influence the development of new technologies and provide recommendations for future DHS S&T investments through their field technology assessments.

First Responder Engagement

DHS S&T is engaging New York City response agencies in the planning and execution of the S&T Urban OpEx. With input from local response agencies, S&T seeks to:

- Identify regional priority capability gaps and potential technology solutions;
- Establish scenarios, venues or existing exercises that can be enhanced with innovative technologies; and
- Collect feedback on technologies for refining and guiding future homeland security technology investments.

Technology Selection

DHS S&T will select five to 10 technologies suitable for operational experimentation in urban environments. The selected technologies may address any or all of the following capability gaps:

- Situational Awareness;
- Communications;
- Command, Control and Coordination;
- Responder Health, Safety and Performance;
- Logistics and Resource Management; and
- Casualty Management.

First Responder Benefits

First responders participating in the S&T Urban OpEx benefit by:

- Field-testing technologies before making potential technology investment decisions;
- Influencing the development of new technologies to best meet their needs through their feedback; and
- Collaborating with technology developers, responders and a broad range of federal, state and local agencies.



First responders preparing to inject a sample into Tridion-9™, a gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, during the 2015 S&T Urban OpEx event.



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To learn more about S&T Urban OpEx, contact nustl@hq.dhs.gov