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DHS Science and Technology Directorate

Port of Entry – People Screening

DHS S&T is working to secure our Ports of Entry

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Borders and Maritime Security Division is tackling the challenge of Port of Entry – People Screening (POE-PS). Building upon the success of S&T's [Apex Air Entry/Exit Re-engineering \(AEER\)](#) project, POE-PS will identify, evaluate and implement combinations of process and technology improvements that enhance the Department's ability to securely facilitate the movement of people through the Nation's air, land and sea ports of entry.



CBP needs secure and scalable solutions

Many ports of entry are operating at or near capacity, staffing is limited, infrastructure is aging, and capital projects are too slow and too expensive to keep up with the pace of change. Nevertheless, the volume of arriving and departing travelers continues to grow year after year. In FY 2016, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processed more than 390 million arrivals at 328 ports of entry and 16 preclearance facilities. Over 119 million of those travelers arrived by air and international air arrivals are on track to double by 2030!



Failure to quickly and accurately enroll or verify the identity of each arriving traveler and inspect them for entry to the United States will result in lengthier queues, increased wait times and negative impacts to legitimate travel and trade. POE-PS is working with CBP, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and private sector stakeholders, including airlines, airports and the biometric and identity management industry to develop scalable, user-friendly

concepts of operation to increase operational efficiency and enhance homeland security through cost-effective processes and technology innovations.

People Screening is improving operations

POE-PS de-risks CBP transformation initiatives through rigorous testing, evaluation and independent third-party analyses. At the [Maryland Test Facility](#), over 150 unique government and commercial-off-the-shelf technologies have been tested under laboratory conditions to establish ground truth. Prior to field trials, promising solutions are configured into simulated operational conditions that travelers and CBP officers alike would encounter in the port of entry environment. These transformational concepts of operation are evaluated with the help of a demographically diverse pool of volunteer test subjects. Over 2,000 individuals have been recruited so far to help POE-PS evaluate solutions for key metrics, including – but not limited to – accuracy, throughput and user experience.



POE-PS engages mission stakeholders, analyzes port of entry operations, identifies critical and emerging needs and develops transformational concepts of operation to address CBP's operational requirements. POE-PS leverages its unique blend of technology, engineering, process improvement, human factors and biometrics capabilities to:

- Identify operational bottlenecks
- Optimize CBP mission tasks and processes
- Inform CBP staffing and technology investments
- Facilitate the secure movement of people
- Decrease wait times and queues
- Reduce CBP operational footprint and costs
- Minimize manual or paper-based processes
- Improve the CBP officer and traveler experience
- Inform intuitive, scalable, user-friendly solutions
- Ensure integrity of the border and immigration system
- Enhance CBP's identity enrollment, management and verification capabilities

