

Department of Homeland Security Silicon Valley Office

Mission and Vision

In April, 2015, the Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced DHS would establish a satellite Silicon Valley Office (SVO) to engage entrepreneurs and innovators from small startups to large companies, incubators and accelerators.

By focusing on these innovators, using new engagement tactics (such as accelerators and prize competitions), and with new funding models, the SVO intends to enable the transition of Silicon Valley technologies to address the nation's homeland security needs.

The SVO's mission is to tap into the innovation of the private sector in new ways, opening the doors for non-traditional performers to work with government and to pose the government as a viable customer for their technology. Traditional government contracting tends to dictate exactly how to do things, and DHS understands innovators don't work that way. The SVO's approach will be to explain challenges and operational constraints the nation and the Homeland Security Enterprise faces and allow them use their full creativity to develop solutions.

Cultivate and Innovate

The DHS SVO will build on the work the Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) Cyber Security Division has been doing over the last decade. During this time,, S&T has funded more than 40 cybersecurity technical areas with over \$400 million in funding with strong bipartisan Congressional support.

The SVO will expand S&T's reach beyond cybersecurity to include other hard problems faced by DHS's components, the homeland security enterprise and first responders.

The SVO will **CULTIVATE** relationships with Silicon Valley technology companies, particularly non-traditional performers to help them understand DHS's challenges.

The SVO plans to use those relationships to **INNOVATE**:

- Co-invest in promising technologies to accelerate transition to market
- Demonstrate and pilot near-term technologies that could better protect the homeland
- Fund new research & development s
- Transition emerging innovative technology into DHS programs and HSE

Throughout fiscal year (FY) 2016, the SVO will focus on outreach and cultivate relationships through ideation workshops. Informed by these workshops, S&T intends to co-fund innovative research and facilitate demonstrations and pilots by FY 2017. Within the next five years, S&T plans to increase the number of technologies evaluated and speed transition into DHS programs.

Following each ideation workshop, S&T may pursue multiple innovation avenues, including:

- **Near-term solutions:** If promising technologies are identified that are mature enough for demonstration, test and evaluation, S&T will partner with the relevant DHS component/HSE sector to conduct pilot deployments.
- **Inform and shape private sector investments:** Through the ideation process, DHS will educate tech companies (from startups to large market-shaping companies to accelerators/incubators) on DHS's need for better security, safety and resilience in the capabilities we employ and deploy.

The Way Ahead

While DHS will be seeking solutions to challenges that could range across the entire spectrum of the homeland security mission, the first challenge will be in the area of Internet-of-Things Security.



**Homeland
Security**

Science and Technology

To learn more about the DHS SVO, contact us at dhs-silicon-valley@hq.dhs.gov.