Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SAVER
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
Visit SAVER on the RKB Web site:
https://www.rkb.us/saver

Side-Scan Sonar Devices

Side-scan sonar systems are used by law enforcement and search and rescue personnel to conduct difficult underwater searches for weapons, submerged vehicles, drowning victims, and other objects of interest. Side-scan sonar systems typically contain a towfish, tow cable, sonar software, interface processing unit, and computer. The systems are deployed from a boat and use sonar technology to develop an image of objects on the bottom of a lake, river, or harbor. Side-scan sonar systems enable emergency responders to overcome operational challenges, cover a wide search area in a short amount of time, look for hazards before divers enter the water, and safely deploy divers once the object of interest is located.

As a SAVER Program Technical Agent, the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN), Atlantic, has conducted a comparative assessment of side-scan sonar systems for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SPAWARSYSCEN conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment, and produced the *Side-Scan Sonar 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. Focus group results can be found in the *Side-Scan Sonar Systems Focus Group Recommendations* report.

All reports in the series, including the *Side-Scan Sonar Systems Assessment Report* will be located on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER) as they become available. Information on other technologies being evaluated in the SAVER Program can also be found on the Web site.

Side-Scan Sonar Device