

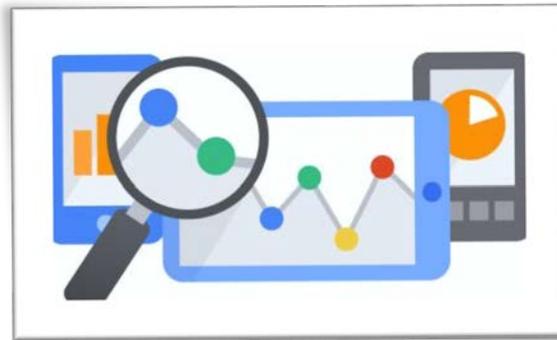
DHS Science and Technology Directorate Technology Scouting and Horizon Scanning

About Technology Scouting at S&T

To address the needs of the Homeland Security Enterprise, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) provides unbiased analysis and recommendations on viable technologies, products and services to advance homeland security capabilities. DHS S&T uses the Technology Scouting process to research and evaluate specific technology landscapes by sifting through global data on technology and market environments. The goal of Technology Scouting is to provide project managers with knowledge to cultivate project planning and execution that encourages them to capitalize on existing and developing technology and markets.

How it Works

- **Initiate:** Any S&T employee can request a Technology Scouting project on any topic by simply connecting with the Technology Scouting team. With guidance from the Tech Scouting team, the requestor will develop a 5W document to answer the questions “Who, What, Where, Why and When,” providing context for the project’s topic and justification for the effort.
- **Kick-Off:** The Technology Scouting team reviews and discusses the 5W and its topic in a kick-off meeting with the requestor. Based on the outcomes of the kick-off meeting, the team develops a Technology Scouting Plan to guide the comprehensive search for relevant and applicable information, research, technology, contacts and services.
- **Scout:** Working within the requestor’s timeline, the team conducts a search using a variety of tools,



databases and other mechanisms. Typically, the team submits information to the requestor as it is identified. The tech scouter has the tools needed to map patent landscapes, find federal laboratory technology, analyze venture capital firms and look across relevant markets for a technology that will meet the requestor’s needs.

- **Analyze:** Using the scouting results, the requestor and the Tech Scouting team analyze the data gathered to refine the search with the goal of discovering applicable and desirable information, technologies and solutions.
- **Summarize and Close:** The team develops a findings report consolidating, organizing and summarizing all of the information gathered by the team, and then presents this report and cited articles, websites, academic papers and all other documents gathered during the process to the project manager during a formal “closeout” meeting. While the project formally ends with the closeout meeting, the requestor can be included in the Horizon Scanning capability.
- **Horizon Scanning:** Horizon Scanning can be conducted to maintain constant awareness of the technology space to inform project managers of impactful breakthroughs or alternatives.

The Value

Technology Scouting is a high-impact process that leverages both the public and private sectors, international and domestic, to identify, locate and evaluate existing or developing technologies, products, or services, as well as emerging trends and new capability applications. The process, operated within S&T’s Office of Public Private Partnerships, Research and Development Partnerships Group, expedites the speed of execution, maximizes partnership opportunities and focuses resources on the development of current or future DHS systems and architectures, DHS operational user needs and DHS programs.



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To learn more about Technology Scouting, please contact
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