S&T NATIONAL CONVERSATION ON HOMELAND SECURITY TECHNOLOGY

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the National Conversation on Homeland Security Technology?

A. The National Conversation is a series of topic-based discussions intended to bring together everyone to play a role in shaping the future of homeland security technology. This means responders, operational users, citizens, academia, and industry. Through online forums and in-person discussions, we will help industry better understand the homeland security market, identify capability gaps, apply innovation, and create outcomes that will help keep us all safer while minimizing disruption to the pace of daily life.

Q. Who should participate?

A. Everyone! Participants include responders; operational users; industry representatives, such as technologists, manufacturers, and fabricators; industry supporters, such as business incubators, accelerators, and venture capitalists; state, local, and federal governmental organizations; academic laboratories; and the general public.

Q. How can stakeholders participate?

A. Stakeholders can participate online by posting questions, ideas, and feedback via the S&T Collaboration Community or by attending virtual or in-person events.

Whether online or in-person, the National Conversation is structured around five "dialogues," each of which addresses a broad issue area.

- Dialogue #1: Responder of the Future: wearables, communications, and information sharing
- Dialogue #2: Enabling the Decision Maker: data, interoperability, and actionable information
- Dialogue #3: Screening at Speed: accuracy, speed, and convenience
- Dialogue #4: A Trusted Cyber Future: mitigation, detection, and automation
- Dialogue #5: Resilient Communities: preparedness, mitigation, and recovery

Q. What is the schedule for the dialogues?

A. Dialogues will be launched according to the schedule below. Participants can engage via the S&T Collaboration Community on a 24-7 basis. In-person and virtual meetings are listed at http://scitech.ideascale.com.

- Dialogue #1: Responder of the Future: January 12, 2015
- Dialogue #2: Enabling the Decision Maker: February 23, 2015
- Dialogue #3: Screening at Speed: April 6, 2015
- Dialogue #4: A Trusted Cyber Future: May 18, 2015
- Dialogue #5: Resilient Communities: June 29, 2015

Q. May stakeholders start discussion on their own topics?

A. Absolutely. In the S&T Collaboration Community, an Open Forum area is available in the "Questions & Answers" section of the site.

Q. What is the S&T Collaboration Community?

A: The S&T Collaboration Community allows participants to exchange ideas in a transparent setting. Participants can input their ideas and have them published publicly on the site so that others can comment on them. Participants can also vote on ideas so that the best ideas "bubble to the top." The Collaboration Community also allows users to provide anonymous comments, ensuring candid discussions among participants.

Q. What is the difference between the S&T Collaboration Community's "Q&A" and "Ideation" sections?

A: The Q&A section is where a question can be posted, and anyone can post an answer in response. The Ideation section is where participants should post ideas for solutions. Other participants can "vote" or "rank" the idea. Participants can also comment on ideas without ranking them.

Q. May I participate in both the "Q&A" and "Ideation," or are only specific stakeholders allowed to participate in each?

A: You can participate in any way for any dialogue. In fact, constant participation across all dialogues is greatly encouraged. Many cross-cutting issues will arise and your perspective is valuable at every stage. Staying involved will help overcome disconnections that have caused barriers to addressing these issues in the past.

Q. How do I participate via in-person engagements?

A: There will be a variety of workshops and roundtable discussions conducted to inform that National Conversation. Go to http://scitech.ideascale.com to view the schedule. Note that the schedule will be updated frequently, so bookmark the site and keep checking back for new dates

Q. Why should I participate?

A: Your input will guide future homeland security research and development. Your thoughtful feedback can lead to solutions to problems we are all facing. Participation could lead to new markets and solutions that will help keep us all safe and protected.

Q. How often do I need to participate?

A: How often you participate is entirely up to you.

Q. How will my input be used?

A: Your participation will make the efforts of every other stakeholder group stronger. Your comments and ideas will help all stakeholders advance their mission, goals, capabilities, and/or markets.

Q. What will the government do with information that I post?

A: An outcomes report and webinar will be produced in order to promote dialogue highlights.

Q. Will participants know who I am?

A: You have two options for submitting ideas: 1) anonymously or 2) open for full transparency. All participants are encouraged to adjust their profile settings to create a unique user ID. The default user ID is your email address (minus the domain name). Participants will not be publicly identified without their consent and are encouraged to adjust profile settings to post anonymously.

Q. What does it mean if someone "likes" my comment?

A: If other people like your comment, they may show it by clicking on the thumbs-up icon. Likes represent social interaction by stakeholders and have no bearing on whether or not a comment or idea will be showcased or recognized with an Inspiration Award.

Q. What is an Inspiration Award?

A: Inspiration Awards may include a number of incentives. For example, awards might include an audience with S&T leadership or other offerings that may help industry collaborate on the development of innovative solutions. Inspiration Award details will be posted in the S&T Collaboration Community when finalized.

Q. If I win an Inspiration Award, am I guaranteed a business contract with the government?

A: No. For more information on how to pursue doing business with S&T, go to http://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/business-opportunities.

Q. My idea may be sensitive. How do I submit that?

A: If you think your specific idea, or solution may run into the sensitive arena, please submit via email directly to STIdeaScale@hq.dhs.gov.

Q. How do I access the National Conversation?

A: Go to http://scitech.ideascale.com to access the S&T Collaboration Community.

Q. What if I'm having issues with the website?

A: Please contact a support rep at http://support.ideascale.com/customer/portal/emails/new.

Q. What browsers are recommended to access the S&T Collaboration Community?

A: For best results, use the following browsers:

- Firefox 3 (or higher)
- Internet Explorer 7 (or higher)
- Safari 3 (or higher)
- Chrome 4 (or higher)