



## IT Program Assessment Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Mobile Surveillance Capabilities (MSC) Program

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) conducted a review of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Mobile Surveillance Capabilities (MSC) program in March 2012.

### **Description and Background:**

The purpose of the MSC is to provide area surveillance in rural, remote areas over a range of 8 to 12 kilometers. Capabilities are detection, identification, and tracking of items of interest (IOI) until successfully ending in a law enforcement conclusion. Sensory equipment may include electro-optical/infrared cameras; ground surveillance radars; laser range finders; laser illuminators; global positioning systems; and command, control, and communication systems. The mobile nature of MSC allows Border Patrol to relocate surveillance assets based on changes in threat patterns and provides area coverage.

The Acquisition Plan has been developed and is being updated. The overall acquisition strategy for the MSC is a commercial acquisition strategy based on procurement of non-developmental items. The feasibility of this approach is based on the results from the MSC Request for Information that was released on July 2, 2009. The MSC shall be acquired using a firm fixed price contracting strategy.

### **Risks and Issues:**

In September, the initial Telephonics First Article Test activities were not completed because the system was declared not ready for test at the Test Readiness Review. First article testing began for ICx at the beginning of October 2011. The First Article Test units were formally rejected due to system failures during testing.

### **Mitigation Strategy:**

Both vendors provided a plan of action to illustrate how they will resolve the system issues. The retest of First Article Test for Telephonics began in January 2012 and was completed March 9<sup>th</sup> with the vendor meeting approximately 95% of the requirements tested. The retest of First Article Test for ICx will begin in May 2012. The schedule in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) E300 has been updated to reflect the requirement to retest the systems. In addition, this retest activity, never originally envisioned, drives changes to all the production schedules and to the operations and maintenance schedule. The decision to allow the vendors to retest their systems was approved by the agency head in coordination with the contracting officer.

### **Assessment:**

The CBP MSC program has well-developed management plans and schedules and is tracking them well. Although it is troubling that the products from both vendors either failed or were deemed unready for their initial first article test, it is heartening to see that the issues were caught early enough to allow adjustments. Although the second test for



Telephonics appears to have been successful, a production decision has been deferred for one to two months pending a meeting with the vendor. The program also needs to complete the updating of the acquisition plan but is waiting until production decisions are made before completing it. Pending the outcome of the second ICx first article test, making production decisions, and updating the acquisition plan, the CIO assesses the CBP MSC program as a **Medium Risk** investment.

**Score: 3**