



IT Program Assessment CBP- Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) Program

The DHS Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) conducted a review of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Remote Video Surveillance System (RVSS) program in March 2012.

Description / Background:

The RVSS program is intended to provide remote video surveillance systems, consisting of day and night cameras with remote pointing control from a Border Patrol station. These systems enable the Border Patrol to survey large areas without having to commit hundreds of agents in vehicles to perform the same function, thus improving the safety of agents as they detect, identify, and classify incursions at the border and resolve the incursions with the appropriate level of response.

The RVSS program is a technology refresh, replacing outdated and obsolete video surveillance equipment deployed across the southwest border. It is an outgrowth of the Secure Border Initiative network (SBInet) program that was cancelled in January 2011 due to cost overruns and schedule delays. The RVSS program is leveraging the lessons learned from SBInet by pursuing a non-developmental system procurement approach and opting for a fixed-price contract.

Risks and Issues:

As with any procurement, especially a fixed-price contract; the risks of not receiving an acceptable bid or having a protest are present.

Mitigation Strategy:

The Component Acquisition Executive (CAE) is involved with the program and providing valuable oversight. One of the actions taken by the CAE that will be extremely beneficial is to enlist the aid and experience of the Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA) at CBP. The HCA will ensure the contracting actions are sound to preclude any future ramifications in the area of this non-developmental procurement for the RVSS program.

Assessment:

The CBP RVSS program has garnered valuable lessons learned from the cancelled SBInet effort. They have abandoned the "one size fits all" solution in favor of procuring commercially available technologies for which it has released an RFP. The CBP RVSS program has taken many good steps that should provide a firm foundation for successfully delivering the needed capability; however, a better indication of the direction the program is taking will come after the contract is awarded. Therefore, the CIO assesses the CBP RVSS program as a **Medium Risk** investment.

Score: 3