

S&T Directorate Strategic Plan



Homeland
Security

Science and Technology



DHS S&T Mission

Strengthen America's security and resiliency by providing knowledge products and innovative technology solutions for the Homeland Security Enterprise

Goal 1:

Rapidly develop and deliver knowledge, analyses, and innovative solutions that advance the mission of the Department

Objectives:

- Provide knowledge, technologies, and science-based solutions that are integrated into homeland security operations, employing 24-36 month innovation cycles from project inception through operational testing
- Strengthen relationships with DHS components to better understand and address their requirements
- Focus on high-priority needs, through rigorous project selection and regular review of the entire R&D portfolio
- Implement processes that strengthen project management, evaluation, and accountability within the Directorate

Goal 2:

Leverage technical expertise to assist DHS components' efforts to establish operational requirements, and select and acquire needed technologies

Objectives:

- Provide scientific and engineering advice and services to strengthen DHS acquisition processes
- Encourage the private sector (with a focus on small business engagement) to develop technologies relevant to the HSE
- Incent owners of critical infrastructure and key resources to adopt technologies that reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience

Goal 3:

Strengthen the Homeland Security Enterprise and First Responders' capabilities to protect the homeland and respond to disasters

Objectives:

- Better understand the needs and requirements of First Responder communities, including those on the front line of border protection and transportation security
- Create high-impact technologies and knowledge products – such as standards and protocols – that facilitate the safety, effectiveness, and ease with which First Responders do their work
- Advance the interoperability of communications equipment for First Responders
- Increase First Responders' access to information on best practices and product performance standards

Goal 4:

Conduct, catalyze, and survey scientific discoveries and inventions relevant to existing and emerging homeland security challenges

Objectives:

- Ensure effective construction and utilization of S&T laboratories in support of homeland security missions
- Improve S&T's knowledge and use of relevant national and international research and facilities, with a focus on DOE National Labs and DoD efforts
- Leverage academia to address Homeland Security needs and nurture the future technical workforce of the HSE
- Collaborate with OSTP and other government agencies to develop the national policy and strategic plan for homeland security research and development

Goal 5:

Foster a culture of innovation and learning, in S&T and across DHS, that addresses challenges with scientific, analytic, and technical rigor

Objectives:

- Increase S&T and the Department's awareness of cutting edge research and technology developments pertinent to DHS missions
- Promote a culture of openness, continual learning, innovation, and collaboration within S&T Directorate and across DHS
- Internally promote synergies and eliminate programmatic redundancies by creating mechanisms and processes to increase information sharing
- Support the development of a high-performing technical workforce at DHS
- Streamline business processes to increase organizational efficiency and effectiveness