

DHS RESPONSES TO ASP QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS

1. Please provide a copy of the protocols being used by DTRA to conduct this review.

Answer: The protocols are being developed and will be provided when available.

2. Does DHS intend to conduct further testing of ASP performance with various threat and masking material prior to certification?

Answer: No. DNDO has already conducted extensive testing at NTS and NYCT, as well as at manufacturer's facilities. Deployment integration testing and field validation is being conducted by CBP at operational ports of entry (POEs). The results of all these test campaigns will be documented in test analysis reports either already provided to the GAO or that will be provided once the reports are complete. The results from these test campaigns will provide a sufficient technical and operational basis for the Secretary to make the determination to certify that ASP systems provide a significant improvement in operational effectiveness over the presently deployed systems.

Does DNDO intend to conduct further testing after certification?

Answer: Yes. Further testing will be conducted as necessary to support spiral development, enhanced algorithms, new ASP variants, and deployment to new venues.

3. Is it DNDO's recommendation that ASPs be used in primary screening or as a secondary screening device?

Answer: The DHS Appropriations Act for FY 2007 requires the Secretary to certify that ASP represents a significant increase in operational effectiveness. After that assessment is made, it is up to DNDO to work with the customer to determine deployment options. For DHS, that means that CBP will decide on deployment, and whether ASP is deployed into secondary or primary or both. The current plan is to introduce ASP into secondary and, with experience, decide if and when to deploy into primary.

4. Please provide a list of the DTRA review team members, their organizational affiliations, their qualifications, and copies of their completed conflict of interest (COI) and financial disclosure forms. What are the specific criteria to be used in assessing COI? Who is developing these criteria? Please provide their names and titles. Who is conducting the COI reviews?

Answer: As mentioned earlier, this is not a DTRA sponsored review and the team is not yet assembled. I requested that Dr. Nanos from DTRA assist in assembling an appropriate team of technical experts to perform this task. This assignment was to him personally, not to DTRA. We fully expected that the majority of the members would be from outside of DTRA. When the team is assembled, it will be appropriately vetted to ensure there are no inappropriate conflicts of interest.

5. How is the DTRA review team's work being funded? Is this funded by DTRA, or will DHS be reimbursing DTRA? Please provide the interagency agreement between DTRA and DHS that covers the cost of this review. What is the estimated cost of this review?

Answer: The effort will be funded by DHS. The estimated cost of this review is being developed. An interagency agreement will be negotiated to effect this action. A copy of the cost estimate will be provided when issued.

6. The "terms of reference" memorandum indicates that two vendors' ASPs have been deployed so far. Please identify which vendor's ASPs have been deployed. Which vendor's ASPs have not been deployed?

Answer: Raytheon Inc. and Thermo-Fisher Scientific Inc. ASP portal units have been deployed at 8 operational ports of entry for purposes of field validation. Canberra ASP portals have not yet been deployed.

7. The "terms of reference" memorandum indicates there is a "Developed Cost Benefit Analysis," which evaluates the probability of successfully detecting and identifying radiation and nuclear threats, and a comparison between ASP and PVT detection systems. Please provide a copy of the Cost Benefit Analysis.

Answer: The Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to be used for Secretarial Certification has not been completed. It is anticipated that this CBA will be completed sufficiently in advance to provide to the Secretary prior to certification.

8. Please provide a copy of all records between DNDO and DTRA regarding the review of ASPs as the date of this letter.

Answer: DNDO has no such records.

9. Please provide copies of all drafts of the “terms of reference” memorandum.

Answer: We have provided the final “terms of reference” memorandum. The only differences between the drafts and the final “terms of reference” document were the date of completion and the name of the DNDO liaison official.

10. Please provide the basis for concluding that GAO is not qualified to review the performance of ASPs or DNDO’s tests. Please provide all internal communications regarding DNDO or DHS’ concerns about the GAO review.

Answer: The question presupposes that DHS made a determination that GAO is not qualified to conduct this review. DHS has not made such a determination.

11. Please provide the name of the individual who provided DHS with a copy of the draft letter prepared by the Homeland Security Committee and the date you received it.

Answer: The draft letter was provided to the DHS congressional staff. This is a common practice given the close coordination that exists between DHS and the principal DHS oversight committees. I reviewed a copy of this letter in late July 2007.

12. In explaining your credentials, you indicated that you had worked as a defense and aerospace consultant. This included work on the Coast Guard’s Deepwater program. Please provide a copy of your consulting agreement, all reports and deliverables related to your contract with the Coast Guard/DHS, and records of any and all payments received by you pursuant to that contract.

Answer: The work I performed for the Coast Guard was performed under a contract that I had with Interactive Technologies Group, Inc. (ITG). ITG was under contract with Defense Acquisition University (DAU). I was a subcontractor to ITG. I am providing a copy of my Master Services Agreement with ITG per your request. The work I performed for DAU included the Rescue 21 program and the Deepwater program. The hours were subsequently increased in their automated invoicing system to cover my effort on the Deepwater Program. The deliverables under my contract were draft documents that were subsequently finalized and submitted to the Coast Guard. DAU owns these documents. Consequently, I recommend that you obtain these documents. I am happy to provide validation of my credentials as I previously did through the confirmation process, but the relevance of my payment records to this inquiry is unclear. I respectfully decline to provide this information at this time.