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News Release: DHS Awards \$950K to Hawaii Small Business for Remote Sensor Data Protection

08/23/2021



[News Release: DHS Awards \\$950K to Hawaii Small Business for Remote Sensor Data Protection](#)

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [Small Business Innovation Research](#) (SBIR) program awarded \$950,000 to based small business Oceanit Laboratories, Inc. to develop a sensor system capability that is resistant to spoofing or data manipulation. Thermal imagers, thermal imaging devices, and radio frequency detectors are used in tactical, harsh, and rugged environments like border crossings, shipping containers, where they collect a wealth of valuable data that inform critical law enforcement and intelligence missions. These devices are often difficult to harden or physically protect, and thus, may be vulnerable to cyber attacks or spoofing.

"This project will help mitigate serious risks to our critical mission areas," said Kathryn Coulter Mitchell, DHS Senior Official for Science and Technology. "The development of an advanced system that not only provides valuable data but also resists manipulation will allow law enforcement to accurately and efficiently monitor operational situations."

The DHS SBIR Program, administered by the DHS [Science and Technology Directorate](#) (S&T), selected Oceanit Laboratories, Inc. following the company's successful Phase I demonstration of feasibility of their [Remote Sensor Data Protection and Anti-Spoofing](#) technology. Oceanit Laboratories, Inc. will continue its research and development efforts on an innovative system that can efficiently and accurately detect spoofing while minimizing false positives from being pushed upstream to operators, analysts, and decision-makers.

"The development of this technology is innovative because it stresses the importance of sensor data integrity and security," said Eileen O'Connell, DHS SBIR topic manager. "Typically, focus is placed on computers that process data and not the sensors that actually provide the data. This technology will allow users to discern between a physical failure and a cyberattack, which is critical to data confidence and system integrity. It will support all sensor types and is scalable to a large number of sensors, which offers wide applicability for the government and industry."

At the completion of the 24-month Phase II contract, Oceanit Laboratories, Inc. will have developed a prototype to demonstrate the technology, spearheading the potential for Phase III funding from private sector and/or non-SBIR government sources. The event technology is to develop a commercial product for end users. "This effort is a testament to the ability of the SBIR program to tap into the ingenuity," said Dusty Lang, DHS SBIR program director. "That ingenuity is ideal for developing technologies to address emerging threats."

For more information on the DHS SBIR Program, visit: <https://sbir2.st.dhs.gov> or contact STSBIR.Program@hq.dhs.gov. Visit the [page](#) to see past projects and visit our [Deconstructing SBIR webinar series page](#) for more on the program.

For more information on S&T's innovation programs and tools, visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/work-with-us>.

###

**Register Today! The CIS Ombudsman's Webinar Series:
USCIS Introduces Online Filing for Form I-821,
Application for Temporary Protected Status**

08/23/2021

[View it as a Web page](#)



Homeland
Security

The CIS Ombudsman's Webinar Series: USCIS Introduces Online Filing for Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) [Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman \(CIS Ombudsman\)](#) invites stakeholders to participate in a webinar to discuss online filing for [Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status](#), on **Tuesday, August 24, 2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.**

On July 21, 2021, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [announced](#) that eligible nationals of Burma, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela or Yemen, or individuals without nationality who last habitually resided in one of those countries, can now file [Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status](#) online *if they are applying for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the first time*. All other initial TPS applicants and current beneficiaries who are re-registering under the extension of a TPS designation must continue to file a paper Form I-821.

When filing an initial TPS application, applicants can also request an Employment Authorization Document by submitting a completed [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#) electronically with their Form I-821. These applications will be the first forms available for concurrent filing online. To file Form I-821 online, eligible TPS applicants must first visit my.uscis.gov to create a free USCIS online account.

During this event, staff from the CIS Ombudsman will engage in a conversation with USCIS representatives to share information about how eligible applicants can [file Forms I-821 and I-765 online](#).

The CIS Ombudsman's webinar will serve as an information sharing and gathering session. Participants may submit written questions and comments during the webinar. The CIS Ombudsman may share submitted questions, without attribution, to USCIS for awareness. If appropriate, these questions may be used by the agency to assist in the development of outreach and engagement materials.

We invite you to register for this webinar using the link below.

RSVP

Wait There's More...

Find out the many ways on how the CIS Ombudsman works for you.

CIS Ombudsman Customer Satisfaction Survey: Please complete the [CIS Ombudsman Customer Satisfaction Survey](#). We appreciate your feedback.

CIS Ombudsman's Annual Reports: By statute, the Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman submits an Annual Report to Congress by June 30 of each year. The CIS Ombudsman's Annual Report must provide a summary of the most pervasive and serious problems encountered by individuals and employers applying for immigration benefits with USCIS. The Annual Report also reviews past recommendations to improve USCIS programs and services. [Click here](#) to view current and past Annual Reports.

Public Engagement: The CIS Ombudsman meets with stakeholders across the country to learn how the delivery of immigration benefits and services impacts communities and to share information about how our office can help. Please visit our website if you want to learn more about our [outreach efforts](#).

Asking the CIS Ombudsman for Help: The CIS Ombudsman provides an impartial and independent perspective to USCIS in an attempt to resolve problems with pending cases. The CIS Ombudsman does not have the authority to make or change USCIS decisions. Before contacting the CIS Ombudsman, you must first try to resolve your problem through USCIS customer service avenues. Learn more on how the CIS Ombudsman can help [here](#).

Recommendations: The CIS Ombudsman identifies systemic problems that individuals and employers face when seeking services from USCIS and makes recommendations with the goal of influencing change and improving the services at USCIS for both those who apply for and those who administer immigration benefits. In addition to the formal reviews and recommendations that the CIS Ombudsman issues to USCIS, we also work in less formal ways to identify emerging issues and begin discussions with USCIS about how problems can be addressed. [Find out more information about recommendations by the CIS Ombudsman](#).

Contacting the CIS Ombudsman: Have questions regarding case assistance inquiries and stakeholder engagements? [Contact the CIS Ombudsman](#).

Stay Connected: [Sign up](#) to receive updates on events hosted by the CIS Ombudsman.

News Release: DHS S&T Funds California Startup to Test Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Improved Situational Awareness

08/24/2021



[News Release: DHS S&T Funds California Start Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems for Improved Situational Awareness](#)

WASHINGTON - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [Science and Technology Directorate](#) (S&T) awarded \$500,000 to a startup of San Diego, California, for further testing and deployment of its autonomous small unmanned aircraft system (sUAS) in U.S. Protection (CBP) operational settings. This [Silicon Valley Innovation Program](#) (SVIP) Phase 5 award is part of an ongoing partnership between DHS and CBP to provide agents with rugged, highly mobile tools that enhance situational awareness in the field.

In earlier phases of development, Planck refined its sUAS system based on CBP requirements and input, which included autonomous automatic target detection and geolocation, and advanced "wingman" features that aid and support CBP agents in-vehicle or

successfully demonstrated those features and the system's unique capability to autonomously launch and land an sUAS from vehicle during testing in Phase 4.

"Planck has developed a breakthrough technology," said Ron McNeal, SVIP Transition Director. "Their ability to adapt the tech feedback shows an understanding of what it takes to transition these much-needed capabilities to the government."

In Phase 5, CBP and S&T will acquire Planck's system for additional testing and evaluation in a controlled setting. The two agree of multiple sUAS and Landing and Recovery System (LARS) units for use by CBP operators in a variety of environments and scenarios, including maritime and night operations. The objectives of the SVIP Phase 5 are to validate requirements, evaluate cost-benefits, and conduct operations for operational use.

"CBP is excited about this Phase 5 agreement that will provide training and hands-on flight time to our CBP agents in their operations," said Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Ryan Yamasaki. "This is a wonderful opportunity for our agents to provide operator feedback technology in support of CBP's homeland security mission."

About SVIP

SVIP is one of S&T's programs and tools to fund innovation and work with private sector partners to advance homeland security. Participating in SVIP are eligible for up to \$2M of non-dilutive funding over four phases to develop and adapt commercial technology use cases.

For more information on current and future SVIP solicitations, visit <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/svip> or contact valley@hq.dhs.gov.

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DHS Statement on Supreme Court Decision on MPP

08/24/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

DHS Statement on Supreme Court Decision on MPP

The Department of Homeland Security respectfully disagrees with the district court's decision and regrets that the Supreme Court declined to issue a stay. DHS has appealed the district court's order and will continue to vigorously challenge it. As the appeal process continues, however, DHS will comply with the order in good faith. Alongside interagency partners, DHS has begun to engage with the Government of Mexico in diplomatic discussions surrounding the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). DHS remains committed to building a safe, orderly, and humane immigration system that upholds our laws and values. DHS continues to process individuals in accordance with U.S. law and our mission. Pursuant to the CDC's Title 42 public health order, DHS continues to expel single adults and families encountered at the Southwest Border.

###

Don't Forget to Register for S&T's Insights Outreach webinar | Building Partnerships Through Innovation and Collaboration on September 7

08/26/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Science and Technology Directorate



Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021
2 - 3 p.m. ET

Wondering how you can access S&T's unique collaboration network?

Join Us

S&T's [Office of Industry Partnerships](#) (OIP) is here to help you navigate the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) resources and learn how to work with S&T to get your

The virtual event is free and open to the public. [Register](#) to receive webinar links and important event reminders and updates.

innovative solutions into the hands of DHS end users and to the commercial market.

Join us on September 7, 2021, from 2-3 p.m. ET for the next Insights Outreach webinar: S&T Spotlight | Building Partnerships Through Innovation and Collaboration.

September Topics

- S&T Office of Innovation & Collaboration
- Public-Private Opportunities
- Resources & Contacts
- Live Q&A

What's Next?

[Insights Outreach Schedule](#)
[S&T Events](#)
[Current Opportunities](#)

Connect with Us

SandT.Innovation@hq.dhs.gov

Follow S&T on social media



REGISTER

S&T's Office of Innovation & Collaboration (I&C) leverages a broad network of other government agencies, industry, foreign partners, and academia to provide S&T and DHS with access to innovative security solutions. During this live webinar, you will learn about unique programs and opportunities that S&T uses to collaborate and form strategic partnerships with the private sector. Join us as we hear from the Directors of the **Office of Innovation & Collaboration**, the **Office of SAFETY Act Implementation**, the **Office of University Programs**, and the **Office of Industry Partnerships**.

Learn more about how to discover opportunities to adapt, develop, and commercialize your technologies in support of DHS missions at the [Insights Outreach](#) series webinars on the first Tuesday of each month.

DHS Science & Technology, Office of Industry Partnerships

SandT.Innovation@hq.dhs.gov
www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/work-with-st

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School Safety Webinar Announcement – Back-to-School: Safety Resources for a Successful Year (August 31)

08/26/2021



School Safety Webinar Announcement Back-to-School: Safety Resources for a Successful Year

Please [join](#) the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse on August 31 at 3:00 PM EDT for an informational webinar on back-to-school safety for the K-12 community.

During the session, leaders from the Department of Education's [Office of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) will provide an overview of resources, programs, and guidance to support schools in safely re-opening as the 2021-2022 academic school year gets underway. The discussion will feature information on efforts including the [Return to School Roadmap](#), the [Lessons from the Field](#) Webinar Series, and the [Summer Learning & Enrichment Collaborative](#).

The webinar will close with a brief look at additional resources offered through the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse on school safety topics like school climate and mental health, physical security, and threat assessment and reporting, as well as a question and answer period for participants to engage directly with our speakers.

- **When:** August 31, 2021, 3:00 to 4:00 PM EDT
- **Where:** Adobe Connect (*access link to be provided one day in advance of the event*)
- **Who:** K-12 School Superintendents and Principals; School and District Administrators; Teachers and School Staff; School Resource Officers; Local Law Enforcement; Mental Health Practitioners and School Counselors; Parents
- **Registration:** <https://schoolsafetybacktoschoolwebinar.eventbrite.com/>

If you have any questions, please contact the School Safety team at SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.

This webinar is part of the 2021 School Safety Webinar Series, a program hosted by the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse to address emerging risks and threats facing the K-12 school community. Held on a monthly basis, the webinar series covers a range of school safety topics, and provides information on the resources, tools, and best practices available to equip school leaders with a set of strategies in creating safer and more resilient school systems.

The Federal School Safety Clearinghouse is a federal government interagency collaboration comprised of the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Justice to provide a comprehensive and centralized location for federal school safety resources. The Clearinghouse reviews, collects, and distributes guidance, tools, best practices, and actionable recommendations to improve safety and security within school communities. Learn more at SchoolSafety.gov or [sign up for updates](#).



Statement from Secretary Mayorkas on the Cyber Talent Management System

08/27/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Public Affairs

Statement from Secretary Mayorkas on the Cyber Talent Management System

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas released the following statement on DHS publishing the Cybersecurity Talent Management System (CTMS) rule in the Federal Register:

“DHS is launching the Cybersecurity Talent Management System (CTMS) to establish an innovative way to hire and retain the very best cyber talent. We are doing so through a new regulation, as we re-envision how the federal government recruits, develops, and retains a top-tier cybersecurity workforce. The regulation also creates the DHS Cybersecurity Service, which will increase access to public service careers in cybersecurity.”

“Cybersecurity is a national security and economic security imperative. Joining the DHS Cybersecurity Service will provide opportunities for better compensation, exciting career development, and the ability to shape the future of the field. The CTMS rule will be effective on November 15, 2021 and DHS will begin accepting applications for the Cybersecurity Service shortly thereafter. Cybersecurity professionals at any stage in their career can visit dhs.gov/cybersecurityservice to learn more about this opportunity.”

“Earlier this week, I joined President Biden, Secretary Raimondo, Secretary Granholm, and other senior government officials for a summit at the White House with private sector, education, and workforce development leaders to discuss how we can work together to protect critical infrastructure and the American people from cyber threats. During that discussion, several participants made [concrete commitments](#) to support our shared goals, including initiatives to strengthen the Nation’s cybersecurity workforce. The cyber threats we face require a whole-of-society approach to keep our communities safe and secure. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, the Department of Homeland Security will remain committed to strengthening our Nation’s cyber resilience.”

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