

Transitioning Biometrics R&D into Qualified Products

Patricia Wolfhope

DHS S&T

Human Factors Division / Product Transition

4/21/10

US Department of Homeland Security

1

Phases in Product RDT&E

- Gap analysis (Needs/ Requirements Definition)
- Solicit new ideas to solve the problem
- Fund research to demonstrate potential of the new approach
- Test units in laboratory environment
- Modify units for field tests
- Test units in realistic conditions
- Transition to products available for procurement and use
- **Test and evaluate final product and certify for use**

4/21/10

US Department of Homeland Security

2

Testing

- New products subject to tests prior to use -- (as final step in the R&D / Transition process)
 - **Conformance** to relevant standards
 - Registry of USG Recommended Biometric Standards
 - Approved Conformance Testing Methodologies
 - DHS internal standards
 - Meet user **performance** specifications
 - Security, safety, environmental, form factor, ergonomics, ...
 - Logistics support / maintenance procedure evaluations

4/21/10

US Department of Homeland Security

3

Testing processes

- Developer tests units itself to ensure that unit meets basic contractual obligations
- Acquisition agreement allows for final payments to developer subject to successful testing of units by an independent body
- Results of independent body testing go to DHS board which decides if unit is suitable for putting on a DHS QPL
- DHS contracts only allows purchase of biometric units on the DHS QPL (which is coordinated with the CIO's list of approved IT items)

4/21/10

US Department of Homeland Security

4

How does this relate to TWIC?

- S&T Product Transition hopes to build on the foundation being built by TWIC for product testing
- Establishment of a council to manage QPL listing and evaluation of laboratory test results intersects perfectly with the orderly transition of products from research to transition
- Use of independent testing labs (such as possible NVLAP-biometrics) is essential for DHS components to have faith in newly developed technologies

4/21/10

US Department of Homeland Security

5

Questions

- Patricia Wolfhope
Patricia.Wolfhope@dhs.gov
 DHS Science and Technology



E



4/21/10

US Department of Homeland Security

6