

## **Homeland Protection Institute (HPI)/Consortium Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***1. What is HPI's mission?***

The mission of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Homeland Protection Institute (HPI) is to serve the public interest by spurring the rapid development and deployment of needed research applications and to address critical related policy, information management and education and training issues, so as to enhance homeland security, liberty, prosperity and sustainability

### ***2. What is its principal focus?***

HPI's principal focus is on multiple use systems that detect, provide early warning, and enable the effective collection and management of appropriate information about chemical, biological, radiological, and other environmental hazards, threats, and events of high public concern.

### ***3. How does it intend to relate to other organizations?***

HPI's approach is to reach out to, and forge strategic alliances, partnerships, and collaborations with and among, diverse public- and private-sector stakeholders, including governmental bodies, communities of governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, and business and industry associations and entities.

### ***4. Why was HPI established?***

HPI was established to foster better communication, cooperation and integration among public and private organizations who share the goal of rapid development and deployment of urgently needed new technologies for homeland protection. HPI was established as an outgrowth of a nascent consortium that had been meeting to discuss "Enhancing America's Technological Capabilities for Anti-Terrorism and Terrorism Consequence Management".

### ***5. What is the public purpose of HPI?***

HPI's purpose is to help protect the public from catastrophic threats by helping government at all levels and others find and select appropriate innovative solutions they need to be better prepared to prevent and respond to those threats, and by systematically and collaboratively identifying, addressing, and overcoming technical, policy, education and other barriers to the effective application of new technologies. HPI will benefit and be sustainable if and only to the extent that it can work cooperatively with stakeholders and strategic partners to meet that purpose together.

**6. *What is the Consortium and why should my organization be part of it?***

The Consortium is a virtual distributed network for better communication, information exchange, integration among diverse players, greater harmonization of efforts and relationships, access to expertise, knowledge transfer and an effective means for outreach.

Government organizations will have a means to reach out beyond their traditional partners and channels, more easily access diverse capabilities to help them carry out their own missions, gain greater leveraging of capabilities and investments already made, and tap a source of balanced information and expertise that can help them meet their objectives of better protecting the public.

Technology providers with important technology solutions should have improved market opportunities through greater visibility, quicker, nontraditional paths to market through accelerated testing and evaluation, standards, demonstration sites, and access to multidisciplinary expertise.

Nonprofit organizations currently involved in some aspect of technology development and deployment can use the contacts made here and collective expertise to help them carry out their missions more effectively. They also can gain an advantage in attracting additional funding in the homeland security arena by their mutual association.

**7. *Why is a new nonprofit organization needed? Why not just use an existing organizations?***

Many existing nonprofit organizations involved in the consortium have an interest in one or another aspect of the rapid development or deployment of critical homeland protection technologies, but those interests are inevitably bounded and shaped by their existing missions. To select one or another existing organizations at this time to manage this effort would inevitably tend to constrain the organization's development before there has been adequate definition of the direction it needs to go. A new nonprofit organization dedicated specifically and exclusively around this mission, and also committed to collaborative partnerships with existing organizations, provides both a balanced focus and maximum leverage of existing public and private networks and capabilities. The objective is to achieve a flexible, scalable, efficient and effective combination virtual-and-actual organization that can take specific action within an overall systems perspective, with priorities being driven entirely by stakeholders needs that are in the public interest.

**8. *What is the legal structure of the Homeland Protection Institute? Does it have members?***

The Homeland Protection Institute, Ltd is a Virginia nonprofit nonstock nonmembership organization. The legal authority is vested in an independent board of directors. The bylaws require that Board membership be balanced among academic, technology provider, technology user and technology facilitator communities. HPI has congregated

Advisors who are key individuals interested in the mission and able to provide important direction and support.

**9. *What is the legal structure of the HPI/Consortium? Do I incur legal responsibility for HPI management by being part of the consortium?***

The consortium is purely a voluntary and informal network. At present, participation carries no corporate responsibilities or duties. The criteria for participation in the Consortia is only that the organization have something significant to offer in terms of needs or capabilities in the area of early warning/detection response and information management, and a willingness to work cooperatively with others in the public interest.

**10. *Will HPI compete against other Consortium participants for funding?***

No. HPI is not intended to duplicate efforts, but instead to seek to harmonize and integrate the efforts of others, and to fill gaps. HPI anticipates working cooperatively through and with strategic partners to jointly develop funding opportunities.

**11. *Who is currently supporting HPI? How will it be funded in the future?***

HPI's collaborates with others in jointly obtaining contract funds for research and education project activities. EWA is temporarily incubating HPI by providing general office support, and other Consortia participants are donating their time and energies. In the future, HPI anticipates funding not only through in-kind support, but also through a yet-to-be-determined balanced combination of legislative support and federal and other public and private grants/contracts, center sponsorships, volunteer labor, publication and testing and license fees, symposia registration fees, etc.

**12. *Where will HPI/Consortium direction come from?***

Working groups will be led by appropriate consortium members and project supporters. Staff support work can be carried out through HPI under direction of its Directors and Officers.

**13. *How will HPI be staffed for projects?***

HPI anticipates being largely a virtual organization, providing overall project and program management, but with project execution through its strategic partners, contractors and consultants. Thus, except for a small core group of professional staff and volunteers, labor will be drawn as much as possible from participants/strategic partners and a network of experts, facilities, and commercial consultants and contractors. Senior permanent professional staff will manage temporary and contracted assistance to avoid inappropriate job relationships.

**14. *What are the processes that HPI is trying to create and/or manage?***

HPI's goal is to create and manage processes to identify, prioritize, and provide practical solutions for the development and deployment of homeland protection research application technologies of high public need, such as:

- 1) identifying, analyzing, and fulfilling the needs and requirements of stakeholders for applications, policies, standards, and information;
- 2) testing, evaluating, verifying, and demonstrating commercial ready applications;
- 3) rapidly developing promising, high-priority applications to commercial-ready status, when needed;
- 4) addressing important legal, risk management/insurance, regulatory, access/privacy, financial, and other issues;
- 5) identifying the need for voluntary standards and codes to help insure the interoperability, harmonization, and integration of technologies and systems, and
- 6) creating individual and public computer-based training, distance learning programs, information exchange forums and other public outreach capabilities for application user and provider communities and other stakeholders.

#### ***15. What projects are currently underway?***

HPI is working on a research program to identify and evaluate biological and chemical sensor systems for use by first responders. HPI has developed a test bed in Central Florida with emergency management and simulated technological communities through an Alliance for Homeland Security Innovation. AHSI is evaluating high-need technologies using local operational exercises. HPI is also working with the Spatial Technology Industry Association (STIA) in facilitating workshops to define geospatial preparedness as input to the Department of Homeland Security's development of a National Strategy.

HPI is reviewing and evaluating government initiatives in its area of interest, especially with regard to the development of the new Homeland Security Department legislation and administrative actions. It is also working on mapping the roles and responsibilities for CBR-related applied research, development, testing, evaluation, demonstration and deployment.

HPI is also working with various consortium participants to develop other joint projects of mutual interest, and is working to expand consortium participation with other key groups.

#### ***16. Isn't the new Homeland Security Department going to have this mission?***

Congress and the Administration have both recognized the critical importance of this mission of development and deployment of technology for homeland defense, and thus the new Homeland Security Department has been given this as one of its primary responsibilities. That fact is all the more reason why the work of HPI is important. There is no existing heir within the federal government to many of those responsibilities,

and there will inevitably be organizational growing pains as the new Department tries to create an organization to take responsibility for this mission. They will need all the help they can get. HPI is trying to carry out its mission in a way that is fully compatible with and supportive of the new Department, and our goal is to help the new Department as much as possible get off to a fast start. It is clear that regardless of who may have governmental responsibility, success will require extensive coordination and communication among diverse communities both inside and outside government, which is what the HPI and its alliances can facilitate.