REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)
RFI Number: DHS 13-01

“Robotic Aircraft for Public Safety”
Amendment 002

We appreciate your continued interest in S&T’s Robotic Aircraft for Public Safety (RAPS) project. Vendor response to our Request for Information (RFI), Number: DHS 13-01, on small unmanned aircraft systems (SUAS) was excellent and included the submission of over 70 white papers. The market research conducted using this information has been very helpful to the RAPS team. As indicated in the RFI, this effort was solely for the purpose of conducting market research and was not to be construed as a commitment by the Government to issue a subsequent solicitation or to provide individual debriefings or feedback on information submitted under this RFI. Additionally, owing to the high number of responses received and the limited resources available for testing, the RAPS team accepted only a fraction of vendors interested in participating in the project during this first phase of assessments (FY2013).

Since this RFI was conducted for market research, we are not providing details as to why some systems were selected for testing and others were not since the determination was based on broad programmatic scope and not a formal source selection process, as is the procedures when conducting market research.

As a reminder, the RAPS project addresses capability gaps pertinent to numerous operational communities, including tens of thousands of potential SUAS user organizations in the non-federal first responder community, as well as numerous components within DHS and other federal agencies and departments. Many federal organizations have high interest, for example, in the potential of SUASs to strengthen U.S. border security. Thus, vendors selected for the FY2013 test cycle reflect this broad programmatic scope in which some of our results are relevant to certain potential users but not to others. Total ownership costs associated with SUASs vary widely and are a good example: Some are prohibitively high for certain user organizations but not for others.

As additional information becomes available, amendments will be made to the RFI to ensure vendors are kept informed of programmatic changes or other information that may impact RAPS implementation. In late 2013 we may issue another RFI, similar to DHS 13-01, in support of our SUAS test plans for FY2014, depending on RAPS progress and needs and on resources available at that time. Please continue to monitor this RFI for any updates.