



# Homeland Security

## National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Security and Resilience Challenge

### Overview

Through the NIPP Security and Resilience Challenge, the Office of Infrastructure Protection within the Department of Homeland Security's National Protection and Programs Directorate provides an opportunity for the critical infrastructure community to help develop technology, tools, processes, and methods that address near-term needs and strengthen the security and resilience of critical infrastructure. The NIPP Security and Resilience Challenge uses a partnership-building approach to help fund critical infrastructure stakeholder efforts focused on filling capability and technology gaps through state-of-the-art, cost-effective, and ready-for-use technologies, tools, and methods.

The Challenge is unique in that it helps identify and help fund innovative ideas that can provide technologies and tools to the critical infrastructure community that are ready or nearly ready to use. These ideas, due to their innovation and research, can be risky but likely to offer important benefits the critical infrastructure community and ensure the greatest increase of security and resilience.

However, projects funded under the NIPP Challenge are meant to not only have tangible, near-term results so they can be quickly developed and implemented, but also be financially, practically, and logistically sustainable in the long term to impact the security and resilience of critical infrastructure across multiple sectors for years to come.

### Funding Structure

The Challenge leverages an "Other Transaction Agreement (OTA)" through the National Institute of Hometown Security (NIHS) to allocate \$3 million in available FY 16 funds. Submissions undergo a capability gap identification process directed at solving specific problems. By encouraging cost-sharing agreements, the Challenge can yield benefits for all stakeholders.

### Areas of interest

- Ideas leading to results with demonstrated impact on critical infrastructure security and resilience in the next 2-3 years
- Needs and requirements that have been previously identified, but not yet funded
- Existing or past solutions that require upgrading or help in transitioning-to-use
- Novel ideas with high potential to enhance critical infrastructure security and resilience, particularly those involving partnerships
- Ideas from sectors and regions that are "shovel ready" and can be quickly implemented
- Ideas that can scale across the critical infrastructure community and different sectors

## Evaluation Criteria

NIPP Challenge submissions are evaluated by an NIHS independent panel, according to the following the following IP criteria:

- Proposed project alignment to one of the Joint National Priorities for critical infrastructure security and resilience and/or NIPP Calls to Action
- Financial viability, given current funding needs and the existing state of the project
- Feasibility to transition the project into use in the critical infrastructure community
- Extent of demonstrated impact in increasing the security and resilience of U.S. infrastructure in the next 2-3 years
- Financial, practical, and logistical sustainability over the long-term to create impacts on critical infrastructure security and resilience
- Availability of other identified cost-sharing and resource-sharing agreements and partners to support this idea
- Potential contribution to a body of knowledge that could have broader benefits for the critical infrastructure community or be scaled to apply in other circumstances in the critical infrastructure community

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The NIPP Security and Resilience Challenge is managed by the [Office of Infrastructure Protection](#), within the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with the [National Institute for Hometown Security \(NIHS\)](#).