

SECURITY INNOVATION CHALLENGE

JUNE-OCTOBER 2022

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Homeland Security Technology Consortium (HSTech), supports the collaborative R&D and rapid prototyping/piloting needs for the Department of Homeland Security and its components. It hired TechConnect to run an innovation Challenge and prize competition in order to source solutions in the areas of: pattern recognition software; real-time analytics platforms; sensors; scanners; imaging; cybersecurity platforms; data harmonization software; AI and ML innovations; privacy-enabled or privacy-centric solutions; and other innovations in identity management. The hope was to attract new consortium members who could ultimately enter the group of solvers powering our nation's most cutting edge solutions to challenges from the Department of Homeland Security.

OUTCOME & RESULTS

TechConnect formulated a Challenge approach, managed the program entirely, sourced innovation, and routed award funding for the Consortium. We ran an informational webinar to ensure that applicants were informed and provided quality submissions, as well as to answer questions for uncertain solvers. In the end, the Challenge awarded \$25,000 and attracted 38 new qualified members, an 84% conversion rate.

The winners:

- » **Allvision IO, Inc.:** An artificial intelligence (AI) for Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping innovation that uses robotics sensing, machine learning and AI to augment human inspection and auditing of physical infrastructure, enabling cost-effective preventative maintenance at an unprecedented scale.
- » **Cybermonic LLC:** A novel graph intelligence system with graph-based machine learning and AI technology that models, analyzes and presents cyber relevant data to assist security analysts and democratize cybersecurity.
- » **Edge Technologies:** edgeCore, A unique solution, called edgeCore, that rapidly creates secure applications and deploys actionable situational awareness dashboards without the need for any new data warehouses or data lakes.
- » **Grabba Technologies:** Grabba ID secures identity by integrating advanced technology for data capture and mobile biometrics, which allows users to verify their identity on a mobile device.
- » **IoT AI, Inc.:** A modular software, AI and sensing set of capabilities, called Pico Threat Kits, that are wearable and mountable for threat detection and response by small UAS in austere and constrained environments.

18
FINALISTS

45
ENTRIES

24%
WOMAN-
OWNED

\$25,000
IN PRIZES

5
WINNERS

22%
SBIR
FUNDED

6
COUNTRIES

84%
NONTRADITIONAL

17
STATES

29%
MINORITY-
OWNED