Information Paper

Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology (HART)

OVERVIEW

The Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM) provides enduring, enterprise-level identity services to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its mission partners. These services enable informed decision making by producing accurate, timely, and high assurance biometric identity information. OBIM provides actionable biometric identity information to DHS and its customers through its capabilities to match, store, share, and analyze biometric data.

THE CURRENT SITUATION AND NEED TO MODERNIZE IDENT

OBIM operates and maintains the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT), the largest automated biometric identification system in the U.S. Government. IDENT will become the Homeland Advanced Recognition Technology (HART) over the coming years to address growing needs from OBIM's customers. Because of IDENT and OBIM's expert analysts, OBIM supplies authorized federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government agency users, and international partners, with around-the-clock biometric services to help them accurately identify the people they encounter and determine whether those people pose a risk. Through IDENT, every day, OBIM:

- Provides background biometric checks for the U.S. Department of State on more than 30,000 visa applicants, which helps consular officers determine whether a non-U.S. citizen is eligible to travel to the United States.
- Enhances U.S. Customs and Border Protection's processing of more than 92,000 international travelers without any increase in wait times at U.S. ports of entry.
- Verifies the identities of more than 14,000 immigration benefit applicants for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Originally developed in the 1990s, IDENT has performed well, but the need for biometric services across the government continues to expand, stretching the legacy system to its limits. For example, IDENT's transactions have grown from a few thousand a day to approximately 350,000 a day and the number of stored biometric identities has grown from hundreds of thousands to more than 250 million. To serve the increasing needs of

DHS and its mission partners, OBIM will need to deliver biometric services using a more robust system – one that has greater capacity, offers more functionality, and provides multimodal storage, matching and sharing capabilities. That system will be HART.

HART HOMELAND ADVANCED RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY

HART EXPECTED BENEFITS
HART will provide:

- Multimodal capabilities that enhance identity surety
- More efficient system processing
- Increased capacity and storage
- Web portal access and web services
- Improved system flexibility and scalability as DHS and mission partner needs continue to grow

HART will provide DHS and its mission partners with a flexible, scalable, and more efficient biometric system that supports core DHS missions and operations for the future.

HART: BUILDING A SECURE FUTURE

On September 28, 2017, DHS awarded a single contract to develop HART Increments 1 and 2 to Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation, and work for Increment 1 began on March 19, 2018. Key aspects of the technical solution include: use of a Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) certified commercial cloud for hosting; a service oriented architecture; an application architecture based on microservices; and cloud-based biometric matching with a platform that allows for ready incorporation of new biometric modalities and matching vendors/algorithms.