



*National Protection and Programs Directorate*  
**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

# Press Release

September 28, 2018

Contact: NPPD Press Office, (703) 235-2010

## **DHS ANNOUNCES 2018 NIPP CHALLENGE SELECTIONS**

WASHINGTON—Today, the Department of Homeland Security’s National Programs and Protection Directorate (NPPD), National Risk Management Center (NRMC) announced the selection of 10 innovative research and development programs to move to the next stage of the 2018 National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) Security & Resilience Challenge.

With the success of the 2017 NIPP Challenge earlier this year, NPPD’s [Office of Infrastructure Protection \(IP\)](#), in partnership with the [National Institute of Hometown Security \(NIHS\)](#), opened the 2018 NIPP Challenge to critical infrastructure partners from the sector council structures described under the [NIPP](#). These partners were invited to submit proposals outlining ideas for innovative technologies or research efforts that would fill a specific capability or technological gap in cyber or physical security, first responder needs, or other infrastructure capabilities.

“This innovative approach to research and development has created a new sense of partnership between the states, the private sector critical infrastructure owners and operators, as well as the federal agencies who all focus on disaster resilience throughout the year,” said Tom Moran of All Hazards Consortium. “The partnerships created by solving complex problems together will last long beyond the initial investments and allow the private sector to become partners in the sustainment of the projects they find beneficial to their operational efforts.”

According to Rob Arnold, CEO of ThreatSketch, “Engaging nonprofits at the executive level provides an alternative to regulatory approaches for supply chain risk management within critical infrastructure, and support from the NIPP Security & Resilience Challenge has greatly accelerated the development of this alternative.”

“The NIPP Challenge provided us an important – and timely – opportunity to expand on a proven technology resource for emergency managers and the critical infrastructure community,” said Nicole Louissant of Healthcare Ready. “The Challenge gave us the resources

required to engage new partners in the healthcare and public health sector to develop a situational awareness tool that benefits emergency management, the larger critical infrastructure community, and patients.”

The Challenge is unique in helping identify and allow funding for innovative ideas, technologies, and tools for the critical infrastructure community that are ready or nearly ready to use. The Challenge leverages a Congressionally-approved “Other Transaction Agreement” (OTA) through NIHS to allocate nearly \$2.5 million in available FY 18 funds. This OTA encourages cost-sharing with the selected submissions.

An independent panel of critical infrastructure experts scored all submissions based on the Challenge’s established criteria. From the recommendations of the panel, DHS then narrowed this list down to 10 submissions that best fit the Challenge’s goals and criteria.

NIPP Challenge submissions selected for funding in FY 18 include the following projects (with their Council affiliation):

- Cyber Risk Management Toolkit for Small Government Entities (Information Technology SCC)
- Condition Assessment Procedures for Concrete Dams with Post-Tensioned Anchors (Dams SCC)
- Location Detection of Rogue Base Stations/ISMI Catchers (Communications SCC & Communications ISAC)
- Synchronization of Situational Awareness Between Critical Infrastructures and the Public Sector Using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) (Regional Consortium Coordinating Council)
- Building Disaster Resiliency in the Public Sector by Leveraging Critical Healthcare Supply Chain Information (Healthcare & Public Health SCC)
- Convenience Store and Fuel Retailer Emergency Preparedness: Resilience for the Last 50 Feet (Commercial Facilities SCC)
- Biopolymer-Stabilized Earth Materials for Resilient and Adaptable Infrastructures (Dams SCC)
- Small Telecommunications Operator Information Sharing Study and Pilot Project (Communications SCC)
- Safeguarding Patients by Enabling Accelerated Government and Utility Response Through Real-Time Data Sharing of Hospital Generator Status During Disasters (Healthcare & Public Health SCC)
- Phase 2: Expand/Enhance a Regional Common Operating Picture for Disaster Resilience (Regional Consortium Coordinating Council)

To learn more about the NIPP Challenge, please visit: <https://www.dhs.gov/nipp-challenge>

###

*The NIPP Security and Resilience Challenge is managed by the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), National Risk Management Center (NRMC), within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and in partnership with the National Institute for Hometown Security (NIHS).*