

This monthly status report summarizes activities related to Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska. This issue highlights advances in

- Developing an interagency biological restoration demonstration in Seattle
- Understanding emergency responder needs for credentialing
- Creating a communications interoperability technology roadmap for the region
- Teaming with Microsoft and the University of Washington to develop response technologies.

IBRD Lands in Seattle

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have chosen the Seattle/Bellevue Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) for the Interagency Biological Restoration Demonstration (IBRD) Program. The program will be a collaborative effort with the Washington State military and the Emergency Department as well as UASI leadership. PNNL staff helped identify and gain support from Northwest stakeholders. Those invited to participate in the introductory meeting held at the end of February included public officials; city and county police, fire, and emergency management; state agencies related to transportation, economic development, health, and ecology; all military agencies at the state and national levels; public health and the medical community; associated federal agencies with regional presence; and representatives from industry. A formal kickoff meeting is scheduled for March 28 with senior leaders including elected officials, leaders in all sectors of public safety, Northwest federal agencies, the military, and industry.

The IBRD Program will provide coordinated, system-level approaches for the recovery and restoration of urban areas, military installations, and critical infrastructure following the aerosol release of a biological agent. This program will take a collaborative approach among stakeholders, sponsors and performing organizations to develop and deliver solutions tailored to the needs of the greater Pacific Northwest Region and scaled for application to other parts of the nation. The four primary tasks include 1) conducting a front-systems study to identify requirements and capabilities; 2) examining existing frameworks and developing an integrated Consequence Management Plan; 3) selecting and developing promising technology solutions that can be applied in recovery and restoration actions; and 4) conducting exercises, demonstrations and workshops to showcase these efforts. PNNL is serving as the onsite technical coordinator and integrator for the program. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories as well as several DTRA contractors are supporting the program, which is expected to span the next 4 years.

Responder Credentialing Pilot Project Ramps Up

In collaboration with Bill Schrier, Chief Technology Officer of the City of Seattle, PNNL coordinated and led a meeting with local emergency responders to identify credentialing issues. This effort is in anticipation of a new project under the Regional Technology Integration (RTI) Program to develop a national template for credentialing by piloting the template in the Seattle UASI. PNNL will use the results of the meeting, on behalf of the region, to develop a solid project plan with the credentialing contractor DHS has retained. A kickoff meeting for the effort will likely occur in early April 2007.

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Region Begins Crafting Communications Interoperability Technology Roadmap

In mid-January, after working with the region’s management leads, PNNL engaged with the Navy’s Space and Naval Warfare Command (SPAWAR) to develop a project plan for the Communications Interoperability Technology Roadmap (CITR). The CITR Project will validate a long-term regional vision regarding interoperable voice and data needs for public safety and prioritize technology goals. The project will start with an inventory of existing public safety system assets and information needs to develop a baseline for future needs and requirements and then identify network changes and innovative technologies that will achieve critical goals. The project will create a regional communications interoperability technology blueprint and a phased migration path for selected systems.

PNNL is serving as a technical liaison for this effort, working with regional policy makers and technical staff to identify issues and needs and facilitate prompt resolution across the Seattle UASI. On February 20, PNNL staff organized and coordinated the kickoff of the CITR Project for the region, which brought together stakeholders, developed a shared vision for the product and timeline, and developed working groups to implement the vision. Eric Coolbaugh of SPAWAR set the stage for the roadmap project by explaining how it had evolved and what was expected. The draft roadmap should be completed by mid-July.

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Microsoft and NVAC Team with UW to Develop Response Technologies

PNNL staff recently brought together two Northwest powerhouses, Microsoft and the University of Washington (UW), to brainstorm and collaborate on developing technologies for emergency response. George Robertson of Microsoft Research, Suzanne Weghorst of the UW, and Jim Thomas of the National Visualization and Analytics Center (NVAC), which PNNL manages for DHS, lead the effort. PNNL is taking the lead in developing an information session with regional emergency responders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, emergency management, Coast Guard, law enforcement and public health to support the overall effort. The outcome of the meeting will be the development of a project that will result in a tool or technology to be demonstrated and tested locally within 6 months. Microsoft Research is also hosting the May 14-15 meeting of the NVAC consortium in Seattle/Redmond.

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Upcoming Events

March 28

Formal Kickoff of the IBRD Program

Seattle

Early April

Kickoff of the Credentialing Pilot Project

Seattle

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Around the Region in Homeland Security is a monthly status report from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in support of the Homeland Security Regional Stretch Goal to bring together major stakeholders from across the region that have a vested interest in homeland security challenges and issues and provide a collaborative environment that addresses Northwest regional homeland security requirements, needs, and challenges. For more information on PNNL’s involvement in Homeland Security in the Pacific Northwest, contact Steve Stein, Regional Stretch Goal Program Manager at steve.stein@pnl.gov or 206-528-3340. For more information on how PNNL supports Homeland Security across the nation, contact Mike Mitchell, Homeland Security Sector Manager at Michael.Mitchell@pnl.gov or 509-375-6353.