

Statement of

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On

Project 28: The Future of *SBInet***

**Before the
Committee on Homeland Security
Subcommittee on Border, Maritime and Global
Counterterrorism**

U.S. House of Representatives

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Good afternoon, Chairwoman Sanchez, Ranking Member Souder, and Members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Jerry McElwee. I am the Boeing Program Manager for the *SBI*net Program. I am pleased to have the opportunity to talk about our progress on Project 28, the first comprehensive deployment task order of the *SBI*net Program.

*SBI*net is a program of significant national interest, with a challenge to deliver a system to the Department of Homeland Security that will:

- Support the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in detecting, apprehending, and processing people who cross our borders illegally,
- Facilitate legitimate cross-border travel and commerce, and most importantly,
- Provide the taxpayers with the best-value solution over the life of the program.

We have an excellent team that proposed a comprehensive, open system solution utilizing proven technology and a systems architecture that will allow for continuous improvement as new technology comes on the market throughout the deployment. It is based on the systems engineering and design approach that Boeing has developed over time and used successfully on many other large, complex projects. An aspect of this approach is to continuously look for "lessons learned," to incorporate into our process.

We will deploy equipment on the border by drawing from a common set of proven technology which we call our "tool box," but each sector solution will be uniquely designed for the needs of that sector.

Boeing is very mindful that everything we do is under the direction and guidance of the CBP *SBI*net Program Management Office – and we have established a very good working partnership with them. Under our contract, Boeing cannot undertake any work that is not authorized by CBP through a task order issued under the SBI ID/IQ contract. Each task order is a FAR-compliant contract which means it has firm requirements and metrics to measure contractor performance. Project 28 is the first task order for deployment of our system.

PROJECT 28 SPECIFICS

Project 28 is a Firm Fixed Price task order for the deployment of equipment across twenty eight miles of the Arizona Border covering the area on either side of the Sasabe, Arizona Port of Entry (POE). We chose this area because it is a high-traffic area and will provide a rigorous test of the system we proposed and are now building.

We have deployed nine towers, each with radar, day/night (EO/IR) cameras and other sensors. Each tower is also equipped with data processing and communications equipment to effectively distribute information to the Control Centers, Mobile Units,

Agent Vehicles and other law enforcement personnel. This information is processed into a Common Operating Picture (COP) which provides Border Patrol Agents with an accurate depiction and location of intruders as well as CBP assets. This capability dramatically improves the situational awareness of agents in the field, the command centers and sector headquarters.

The first tower was deployed in April and testing began at that time. Today, all nine towers have been deployed and we began system level testing earlier this week to ensure that, upon completion, these towers and associated equipment will work as a system, providing a highly reliable, available, maintainable, and cost effective solution to strengthen the management, control and security of the border.

I have some photos of the equipment and charts explaining the deployment which are attached.

THE WAY FORWARD

CBP has given us authority to start planning for several other task orders and that work is underway. To support this effort which will run for the rest of this fiscal year and FY 2008, we have conducted a comprehensive re-competition of the technology and equipment we will need for these task orders, i.e. the first refreshment of the “tool box.” We conducted an Industry Day on May 3 which was attended by almost 900 individuals representing over 400 companies. Approximately three weeks later, we released 55 Requests for Proposal (RFPs) and are in the process of receiving and evaluating the resulting submissions. The winning companies will form the supplier base that will provide the technology and equipment for the next year or two.

Project 28 gives us a demonstration of our approach and a test bed for incorporating improvements. The expanded team refreshes out technology, ensures low prices, and gives us the capacity to execute on the much larger task orders that lie ahead.

In summary, we think we have made a good start on this program. We are on track to meet the milestones in the P-28 Demonstration Task Order, and we have initiated the planning, systems engineering, analysis, and team expansion necessary to meet the challenges ahead.