US seeks object tracking technology for seas and waterways

It was announced from Washington DC on 27 February that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Silicon Valley Innovation Program (SVIP) is seeking start-ups to develop or adapt a system to more clearly mark and track objects in the water.

Known as the new Maritime Object Tracking Technology an invitation was posted that day for a new technology that could become a valuable part of mission execution for the US Coast Guard (USCG).

SVIP and USCG will host Homeland Security Day on 4 March in Menlo Park, California from 0900 to 1230 PST to discuss the Maritime Object Tracking Technology solicitation and other current USCG operational needs.

To register for the event readers are invited to visit: https://sri-csl.regfox.com/dhs-svip-homeland-security-day-uscg

Here the USCG is the lead federal agency for eleven statutory missions to include drug interdiction on the high seas, as well as search and rescue, migrant interdiction, and others. To better execute these responsibilities, the USCG needs a more reliable system for clearly marking and accurately monitoring objects in the water for recovery.

In the words of Wendy Chaves, US Coast Guard Chief of Research, Development, Test and Evaluation and Innovation: ‘During the course of normal operations, Coast Guard aircraft and vessels come across numerous types of jettisoned objects, and navigation hazards that need to be recovered from the seas and waterways. The USCG is interested in tracking solutions that are interoperable with current USCG maritime and aviation assets.’

This Other Transaction Solicitation call seeks a more robust buoy tracking technology that will assist USCG operations and has the ability to be deployed from both air platforms and maritime surface vessels, on patrol or in pursuit.

Melissa Oh, SVIP Managing Director commented: ‘A robust and effective Maritime Object Tracking Technology will bolster USCG mission capabilities and a system that can be more widely used by all USCG personnel will strengthen waterway security, drug interdiction, and search and rescue missions while benefitting maritime navigation and marine safety.’
On behalf of DHS Operational Components, SVIP invests in start-up companies with viable technologies suitable for rapid prototyping projects from across the nation and around the world to adapt, develop and harness cutting-edge capabilities that are commercially sustainable while simultaneously meeting the needs of DHS operational components and programs.

For more information on current and future SVIP solicitations readers are invited to see: www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/svip or contact dhs-silicon-valley@hq.dhs.gov