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Sophisticated surveillance planned for DC rail corridor

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The Department of Homeland Security, which has procured a slew of video surveillance and remote sensing equipment to monitor the miles of railroad tunnels and tracks leading into and out of Washington, DC, is now looking for a contractor to engineer and install that equipment.

The department's office of infrastructure protection has issued a sources sought announcement which invites interested vendors to submit their capabilities information by November 9.

Much of the procurement work already accomplished, which fell under two different programs -- the National Capital Region Rail Pilot Project and the Amtrak Security Pilot Project -- has been performed under an earlier contract by a San Diego-based small disadvantaged veteran-owned business, [Epsilon Systems Solutions, Inc.](#), and a Jacksonville, FL-based security company, [Duos Technologies](#).

Gianni Arcaina, chairman and CEO of Duos Technologies, told GSN that his company, along with Epsilon, would respond to the recent DHS request for information and intended to pursue the remaining installation work.

"We are 90 percent complete, so I'm not sure if there will be great interest in this project among other companies," said Arcaina.

The eventual contractor for the remaining execution phase will be asked to install surveillance equipment that establishes a "virtual boundary" throughout the entire "DC Rail Corridor," which includes critical areas at Union Station, the L'Enfant Plaza, the Virginia Avenue and First Avenue Tunnels, the Long and Anacostia Bridges, and along miles of railroad track beyond those locations.

"The virtual boundary (fence) shall consist of video camera technology integrated with intelligent vision interpretation software that will enable the system to detect moving objects, detect intruders crossing virtual

boundaries, identify personnel loitering in the area, and identify unauthorized suspicious objects left behind or objects removed along the rail line," explained the DHS notice posted November 2 in the *Federal Register*.

The complex surveillance system will allow 24/7 monitoring of streaming video, data and alarm information at police communications centers set up for [CSX Corp.](#) freight railroad in Jacksonville, FL, which is based in that city, and for [Amtrak](#) in either New York City or Philadelphia.

The contractor will build two "virtual gates," one south of the Long Bridge and the other north of the Anacostia Bridge, each of which will host a Train Entry Alert Security System (TEASS) that can provide a 270-degree view of all approaching trains.

"The Contractor shall provide a combination of fixed and PTZ [pan, tilt, zoom] cameras and adequate lighting so as to allow security personnel to remotely inspect the approaching traffic and if necessary request a speed reduction or even the stoppage of a particular train," said the announcement.

In addition, the elaborate plan is intended to include a pilot program for an explosive detection system that could spot explosives being carried by travelers in high traffic areas, such as DC's Union Station, at a minimum rate of 3,000 people per hour.

Also, the plan calls for the installation of four chemical detection sensors to be installed along five miles of railroad track which will supplement other chemical sensors embedded in the virtual gates. These chemical detectors will be designed to identify toxic inhalation hazard (TIH) materials, such as ammonia and chlorine, and other hazardous materials, at levels well below minimum thresholds.

In addition to security personnel at Amtrak and CSX railroads, the surveillance data will be made available via a Web-based, fully-encrypted communications system, to the Washington Metropolitan Police, the U.S. Capital Police, the National Park Service Police and other emergency response agencies authorized by DHS.

Candidate vendors are requested to submit a maximum of 20 pages outlining their relevant capabilities to the contract specialist, [Iann Washington](#), at or 202-447-5736 by November 9.

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