

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### AN OPEN INVITATION TO INTERESTED CONSORTIA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANSI HOMELAND SECURITY STANDARDS PANEL

#### ANSI-HSSP Addresses Homeland Security Standardization

*On March 23 of this year, a very successful meeting was held (co-sponsored by ANSI and Gesmer Updegrove LLP) and leaders of 21 consortia. The purpose of the meeting was to brief and receive input from the management of ITC consortia on the revision of the United States Standards Strategy.*

*Now, ANSI is hoping that representatives of the many consortia that are actively engaged in developing security and other standards relevant to Homeland Security concerns will participate in another ANSI activity: the Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP). We are pleased to bring this invitation to your attention, and hope that the consortium community will take part in this activity.*

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP) recently celebrated its two-year anniversary of serving as an important public-private sector coordinator in the homeland security standards arena. The Panel has as its mission to identify existing consensus standards, or, if none exist, assist the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and those sectors requesting assistance to accelerate development and adoption of consensus standards critical to homeland security. The Panel issued a "two-year accomplishments" document that details the progress that has been made to date via its workshops on specific homeland security subjects, as well as areas for further exploration.

ANSI-HSSP workshops have already been convened to examine standardization in the areas of *private sector emergency preparedness and business continuity, biometrics, biological and chemical threat agents, and citizen preparedness*. Work is ongoing via workshops and task groups for the areas of *training programs for first response to WMD events, emergency communications, enterprise power security and continuity, and perimeter security*.

The next ANSI-HSSP plenary meeting will be held September 29-30, 2005 at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. In addition to general homeland security standards presentations and discussion, three breakout sessions will be held on the following subjects: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE); Border & Transportation Security (BTS); and Emergency Preparedness and Response (EP&R) and Infrastructure Protection (IP).

The Panel is seeking increased participation from fora/consortia that are involved with homeland security standardization. Any organizations wishing to join or participate in upcoming meetings are encouraged to contact Matt Deane (mdeane@ansi.org; 212-642-4992), ANSI-HSSP Program Manager. Further information on the group and its activities is also available on its website, <[www.ansi.org/hssp](http://www.ansi.org/hssp)>.

---