

Department of Veterans Affairs
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For Immediate Release

Department of Veterans Affairs awards landmark contract to take leadership role in governmental cyber security

New Incident Response Capability to Protect Electronic Information Across all VA Networks.

WASHINGTON – July 19, 2002 – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the award of their landmark Central Incident Response Capability (VA-CIRC) contract to the VA Security Team (VAST), LLC, a joint venture led by global cyber security solutions leader SecureInfo Corporation. Upon full implementation, the comprehensive system will be the most advanced installation of its kind in federal government.

“Complete privacy is the foundation of this initiative,” said Dr. John A. Gauss, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology. “Our mission is to establish a new world standard in cyber security, and to accomplish our ultimate goal of securing the enterprise against cyber attack.”

VAST, along with business partners including Compaq, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and Signal Corporation, will plan, establish and manage the state-of-the-art central incident response capability. The capability will become the nucleus of all VA Cyber Security operations nationwide, providing constant protection, detection and response capabilities against threats, remotely exploitable vulnerabilities and real-time incidents on all VA-affiliated networks. A global “early warning” information-sharing network, in cooperation with leading homeland defense, law enforcement, federal, vendor, university and emergency response related incident analysis and validation laboratories will also be implemented.

“This incident response contract signals a major advancement in the protection of private electronic information for the American public and we expect that other federal agencies will follow this trend in the near future,” said John Linton, Chief Operating Officer for SecureInfo Corporation and VAST, LLC, General Manager. “We have established a world-class computer security team that is focused on making sure that the VA, as a vital component in the lives of many Americans, is prepared to face the growing trend of computer related crime and cyber-terrorism that threatens our nation’s critical infrastructures.”

The base contract calls for services valued at \$103 million over the 11-year term of the agreement, with expectations by both the VA and VAST that additional services could be required bringing the long-term commitment to \$200 million or more.

“Our country’s veterans have sacrificed much to ensure that our children and families are able to enjoy a safe, prosperous future,” said Dr. Frank Perry, VA Chief Technology Officer. “In return, the department is committed to making this future a reality by ensuring that the agency’s nationwide network of computerized services are constantly secure, readily available and focused on the continued growth of our organization and its people.”

Bruce Brody, VA Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security, said the new initiative will directly utilize the latest innovations in cyber security, managed by some of the most experienced professionals in the industry. “Our customers can rest assured that we will do everything within our power to protect their critical private information from unauthorized access,” he said.

Robert Pate, VA Central Incident Response Capability Team Leader, reiterated the need for such security measures. "In today's world of Internet uncertainty, every passing week reveals another episode of malicious hackers and cyber-terrorists exploiting vulnerable networks across the globe," he said "Through a combination of proactive prevention, real-time detection and immediate response, the VA-CIRC will effectively protect those veterans that have protected our country on so many occasions throughout our history.

About The Department of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was established in 1989. It succeeded the Veterans Administration and has responsibility to serve America's veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits, social support, and lasting memorials promoting the health, welfare, and dignity of all veterans in recognition of their service to this Nation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is the second largest of the 14 Cabinet Departments with approximately 240,000 employees (19,000 physicians and 49,000 nurses) and a 54 billion dollar budget. The VA's customer base consists of 25.3 million current active Veterans, and a quarter of the nation's population (approximately 70 million people) eligible for VA benefits which include nationwide programs for health care, financial assistance and national cemeteries. Additional information about the VA is available at <http://www.va.gov/>.

About VAST, LLP

Led by SecureInfo Corporation these qualified small business partners include Adtech Systems, Applied Engineering Management Corporation, DSD Laboratories, Seidcon and TeamBI Solutions.

About SecureInfo Corporation

Founded in 1992 and headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, SecureInfo Corporation's work in the security industry has revolutionized the process that corporations and governmental agencies use to protect critical information today. SecureInfo Corporation provides a complete "end-to-end" global security management solution to distributed computing environments via its trusted suite of innovative products, consulting, services, and training.

SecureInfo's principals spearheaded the creation of the security policy accepted by the National Security Agency and standardized by the Department of Defense to protect high-risk government systems, and are considered early pioneers of security policy development, information assurance, risk management and enterprise level security.

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