Press Office
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOMELAND SECURE DATA NETWORK

(Washington, DC) Apr. 12, 2004 - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security today announced a contract to initiate the implementation of the Homeland Secure Data Network (HSDN). The HSDN will provide DHS officials with a modern IT infrastructure for securely communicating classified information. When completed the HSDN will be a private, certified, and accredited network that will fully support the mission goals of the department.

DHS has selected Northrop Grumman to design, implement, and operate the HSDN. The General Services Administration (GSA) made the award through the GSA Millennia contract at a potential value of over $350 million if all options are exercised by the end of 2005.

"The Homeland Secure Data Network will provide DHS personnel and their partners with a 21st century information technology infrastructure for securely communicating classified information," said Homeland Security Secretary Ridge. "The HSDN lays the foundation to consolidate five legacy wide-area networks down to one network for both classified and unclassified information, leading to one infrastructure – the first phase of which will be completed by the end of this year."

The HSDN will significantly enhance DHS' capability to interact with other classified networks while simultaneously eliminating the department's dependence on networks external to DHS. Looking to the future, the HSDN will be designed to be scalable in order to respond to increasing demands for the secure transmission of classified information among government, industry, and academia crucial to defending America from terrorist attacks.