Challenge.gov
Government Challenges, Your Solutions

WINNER PROFILE

Meet: Bruce Patterson
Technology Director, City of Ammon
Ammon, Idaho

The Challenge: Ultra High-Speed Apps

The National Institute of Justice encouraged software developers and public safety professionals to use public data and ultra-high-speed bandwidth systems with apps that significantly improve criminal justice or public safety services and operations.

The Prize:

$75,000

The Solution:

A school emergency screencast application that uses existing camera systems, ultra-high-speed bandwidth, and gunshot detection hardware to report fire immediately to first responders. Video and audio feeds then allow emergency personnel to identify an active shooter and provide potentially life-saving information to improve response time and tactical decisions.

SUCCESS: IN HIS OWN WORDS

How has participating in this challenge helped you advance your solution?

Our participation resulted in the creation of the system. Prior to our work, the sensor company we worked with did not have a production solution. They just had a sensor array that could detect a gunshot and provide a relatively accurate GPS coordinate for shot origination. More importantly, the work we did required all entities involved to come to the table and define the deliverable. The challenge really drove the collaboration required to create a production system which depends on the support of so many diverse entities. The work of defining and establishing the partnerships and responsibilities was actually more important than the technical work in my opinion.

What is the impact of your solution for government, your communityand society?

Better partnerships, more collaboration and a commitment from everyone who participated to continue to do what is best for those we server rather than protecting our traditional territory. I think implementation of this system will drive that same improvement in other areas. There is also the practical benefit of having a shooter's ID before you even arrive on scene and the fact that a system like this can harden public spaces from such attacks to some extent.

For More About the Winner:

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