## About Apex AEER

The Apex Air Entry/Exit Re-Engineering (AEER) program is a multi-year effort within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that will inform the transformation of the international arrivals process and the implementation of a biometric capability to verify the departure of foreign nationals leaving from U.S. air ports of entry.

Through the Apex AEER program, DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are collaborating to transform CBP operations by leveraging commercially available technologies, re-engineering current processes, and introducing new operational capabilities.

The Apex AEER program will identify, develop, test, and evaluate new concepts of operation to enhance and facilitate traveler-screening processes. There are three primary drivers for Apex AEER:

- Increase security while facilitating trade and travel

- Implement operational capabilities required by federal legislation

- Support the National Travel and Tourism Strategy

## Facilitating Trade and Travel and Supporting the National Travel and Tourism Strategy

The U.S. has seen a record-breaking number of international visitors entering in recent years. An estimated 74 million visitors were recorded entering the US in 2014, with the goal to welcome 100 million visitors per year by 2021. The National Travel and Tourism Strategy outlines a series of initiatives to enhance travel and tourism to the U.S. and provide a best-in class international arrivals experience, while ensuring the security of our borders and the safety of the traveling public.

The Apex AEER program will identify a multitude of technologies and processes to provide faster and more intuitive options to complete the inspection process and facilitate increasing volumes of trade and travel while enhancing the integrity and security of CBP operations at air ports of entry.

## Redefining the Federal Inspection Entry Process



The Apex AEER program is assessing the existing arrivals process into the U.S. as well as systems implemented by foreign governments to identify areas for improvement and best practices. The results of these assessments will inform ongoing initiatives including, but not limited to:

- Automated counting and measuring capabilities for real-time situational awareness of arriving passenger volumes and dwell times,

- Use of mobile and wearable technology to provide more flexibility and agility for international arrivals process, and

- Communication mechanisms to prepare and instruct travelers of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds to facilitate more effective inspections.

These enhancements will increase CBP operational effectiveness by enabling CBP officers to dynamically and flexibly respond to unexpected surges and overloaded queues in the Federal Inspection Service areas.

Collaborating with industry stakeholders is a critical component of air entry initiatives. Accordingly, laboratory evaluations, scenario-based tests, and operational field trials will be conducted in a phased approach with CBP and industry stakeholders to analyze effects on cost, traveler throughput, impact to airport operations, and quality of the traveler experience.