



**Homeland
Security**

Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions.

Located within the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) of DHS, the SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment; and
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life- and cost-saving asset to DHS, as well as to Federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

To contact the SAVER Program Support Office
Telephone: 877-336-2752

E-mail: saver@dhs.gov

Visit SAVER on the RKB website:

<https://www.rkb.us/saver>

Handheld Raman Spectrometers

Handheld Raman spectrometers are rugged, field-portable units that provide emergency responders with the ability to analyze unknown powders and liquids without destroying the sample. Raman spectrometers may be used to perform direct sampling of a loose solid or liquid material or to conduct sampling on containerized material. Common applications include identification of illicit drugs or drug production precursors, explosives or explosive production precursors, industrial chemicals, or common household materials.

As a System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program Technical Agent, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) conducted a comparative assessment of handheld Raman spectrometers for the SAVER Program. Prior to the assessment, SAIC conducted a market survey in order to provide information on commercially available equipment and produced the *Handheld Raman Spectrometers Market Survey Report*. A focus group was then conducted to identify equipment selection criteria for the assessment, determine evaluation criteria, and recommend assessment scenarios. Results can be found in the *Handheld Raman Spectrometers Focus Group Report*.

All reports in the series, including the *Handheld Raman Spectrometers Assessment Report*, will be located in the SAVER section of the Responder Knowledge Base (RKB) website (<https://www.rkb.us/saver>) as they become available. Information on other technologies evaluated by the SAVER Program can also be found on the website.



Handheld Raman Spectrometers