



The System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders Program



With the recent plethora of natural disasters and intentional man-made events, emergency response equipment is being purchased at an increasing rate by federal, state, local, and tribal emergency responders, including fire departments, emergency medical service agencies, emergency management departments, law enforcement officials, and public servants. In some cases, departments are finding themselves on wait-lists and it takes months to receive the necessary equipment. After waiting months for its arrival, the last thing a responder wants to discover is that the equipment will not be able to meet the requirements of the job. The problem is the information that is provided by manufacturers about their products is derived from tests performed by the manufacturers in a lab setting. Although the equipment is tested before it hits the market, the overall safety, quality, reliability, and maintainability of the equipment in field environments may be significantly impacted as each equipment item functions as part of an operational system. To be better prepared for emergencies, responders must have an independent, unbiased, non-profit clearinghouse to obtain reliable information concerning the operation of individual equipment items and how those items work together as a system. With this in mind, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Preparedness Directorate, Office of Grants and Training developed the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program.

The SAVER Program provides high quality, impartial, operationally relevant evaluations/validations of critical emergency responder related equipment and systems. The results are provided to the responder community in an operationally useful form. SAVER, through its technical agents, assesses and validates various systems identified by emergency responders and the DHS as being instrumental in their ability to perform their jobs. When armed with reliable information regarding equipment performance, emergency response officials can allocate funds more wisely and, at the same time, ensure the safety of the men and women who depend on the equipment for their personal safety in hazardous situations.

TCAT served as the SAVER Program Support Office (SPSO) and Texas A&M Engineering and its engineering agencies served as a SAVER Program technical agent from the inception of the SAVER Program in October 2003 until December 2006 and June 2007, respectively.

TEXAS CENTER FOR APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

There are many problems that require the careful and proper integration of applied technologies to find solutions. The Texas Center for Applied Technology (TCAT) was created to focus on these specific problems and to develop effective and efficient solutions. TCAT's core competency is the innovative application of existing technologies and advanced research to solve complex real-world problems.

TCAT's primary objective is to apply and test technologies to address targeted problems and engage basic research as required. TCAT has employees in a variety of locations with the ability to perform research that cuts across multiple technologies, disciplines, and cultures. The Center's employees are knowledgeable regarding customers' requirements and are ready to respond effectively to provide the best value for the customers' needs including expertise in technology insertion, technology assessments, and test and evaluation.

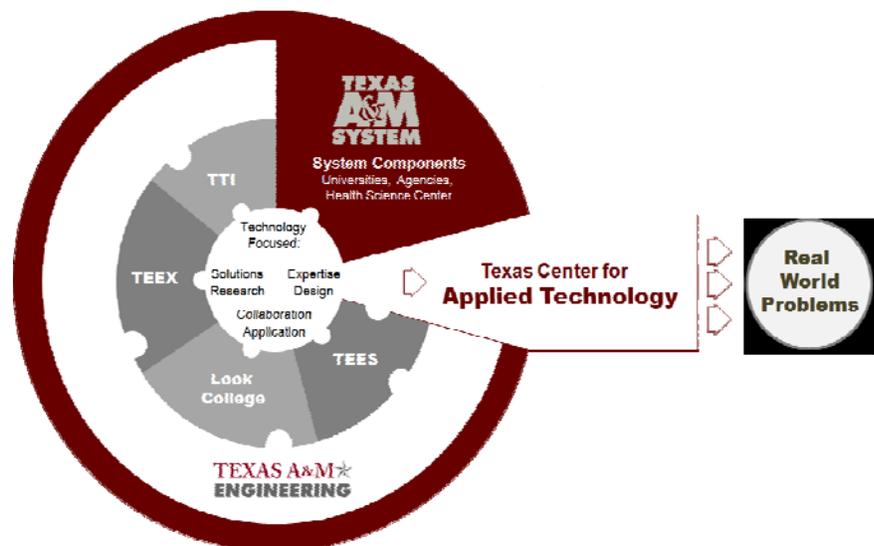
TCAT is part of the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), a member of The Texas A&M University System. The A&M System is one of the largest and most comprehensive systems of higher education in the United States. Through a statewide network of eleven university campuses, seven state agencies, and a comprehensive health science center, the A&M System educates more than 120,000 students on its university campuses, conducts more than \$780 million in research, and reaches another 22 million people through service each year. TEES is an engineering research agency for the state of Texas and conducts over \$147 million in research annually. Because of the Center's position within the Texas A&M Engineering program, TCAT's expertise can easily be extended by rounding out its team with world class faculty researchers, as appropriate. TCAT is in an excellent position for collaboration not only with The Texas A&M University System components and their customers but with other universities, institutions, centers, and industry.

TCAT'S CORE COMPETENCIES

Energy Sustainability ★ Environmental Sustainability
Manufacturing & Systems Engineering ★ Information Technology ★ Modeling & Simulation
Technology Insertion ★ Test & Evaluation

TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING

Texas A&M Engineering consists of the Dwight Look College of Engineering, and three engineering agencies, including TEES: Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) conducts research and professional education in all modes of transportation. The Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) works to develop a highly skilled and educated workforce and enhances public safety through training, continuing education, and technical assistance.



For more information contact

TCAT Headquarters

Address: 3407 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843

Phone: 979.458.0250

Executive Director

James A. Wall

E-mail: tcadministration@tees.tamus.edu

Web: <http://tcat.tamu.edu>

MEMBER OF THE
TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM