



For Immediate Release

Media Relations

Leslie Jones
Federation for Identity and Cross-Credentialing Systems
leslie.jones@fixs.org
703-591-9255

THE FiXs NETWORK SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO SECURE CYBERSPACE AS WARFIGHTING DOMAIN

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber, Identity and Information Assurance Testifies Before U.S. House on Initiatives to Strengthen Cyber Security

FAIRFAX, Va., June 29, 2009 – The Federation for Identity and Cross-Credentialing Systems® (FiXs®), a public-private partnership dedicated to building and deploying a secure, interoperable identity and cross-credentialing network, today announced that its network is providing for the electronic verification and authentication of identity credentials for personnel seeking access to designated military installations and systems. The role of the FiXs Network in support of national initiatives to improve physical and cyber security for government organizations was underscored in testimony delivered on May 5, 2009 to the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee who met to review *Cyberspace as a Warfighting Domain: Policy, Management, and Technical Challenges to Mission Assurance*.

Among the witnesses was the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Cyber, Identity and Information Assurance and senior information assurance official of the Department of Defense (DoD), Robert Lentz who acknowledged the important role that FiXs plays in the fight against physical and cyber threats to DoD facilities and systems.

FiXs has extended the capabilities originally piloted with the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and under an expanded Memorandum of Understanding signed in

February 2009, the parties agreed to a set of system specifications and operating rules for identity authentication that are designed to facilitate interoperability between the DoD and the industry-sponsored FiXs Network. This secure network provides real-time electronic verification and authentication of the identity of personnel seeking physical and logical access privileges to enter military installations, government-controlled areas, and commercial facilities, as well as logical access to online applications where individual access has been granted. The February 2009 MOU is posted at www.fixs.org.

In his May testimony, Mr. Lentz focused on DoD security initiatives to "enhance the Department and the nation's information assurance/cyber security posture." The increasing threats to national security drive a corresponding requirement to fortify information assurance initiatives. Mr. Lentz acknowledged the role of FiXs as a key partner to the Department of Defense with its proven approach to "standardized identity credentialing."

"FiXs is pleased that the importance of a strong federated identity strategy has been recognized at the highest levels of our national cyber security leadership," said Dr. Michael Mestrovich, president of FiXs. "FiXs has focused on maintaining its Certification and Accreditation (C&A), as accepted by the DoD, and on piloting interoperable secure authentication capabilities between the Department and its industry partners. FiXs currently has certified and accredited two credential issuers and hosts an accredited credential validation network.

As of June, 2009, the FiXs Network is operational with DoD offering users a trusted, federated identity authentication infrastructure to the DoD and other federal agencies. Although this infrastructure provides for secure authentication of personal identities, the granting of access privileges remains at the sole discretion of facility managers and application owners.

As highlighted by Mr. Lentz, the use of hardware-based identity credentials has proven to be an effective means of reducing "known attack vectors." Of note, the FiXs-certified credentials currently are the only ones that carry and protect DoD-approved Medium Hardware Assurance digital certificates¹ as specified under the DoD External Certificate Authority (ECA) PKI root, as included in the DoD PKE InstallRoot 3.12A.zip² with all of the trusted DoD PKI and ECA PKI root and intermediate CA certificates. This technology enables logical authentication across the widest range of DoD Public Key-

¹ FiXs-certified Level 2 credentials currently carry and protect DoD-approved Medium Token Assurance digital certificates.

² The DoD PKE InstallRoot 3.12A.zip is available at: <https://www.dodpke.com/installroot/>

enabled websites. In addition, the credential provides for digitally-signed and/or encrypted e-mail/document transactions between DoD personnel and its trading partners. DoD approved Medium Hardware Assurance digital certificates (as well as the Medium Token Assurance digital certificates) are cross-certified with the Federal Bridge Certificate Authority (FBCA) at the Federal PKI Medium Hardware Assurance level. Therefore, FiXs®-certified credentials are interoperable with the Federal PKI programs, including PIV/ PIV-I.

About FiXs

Incorporated in 2004 and based in Fairfax, Virginia, the Federation for Identity and Cross-Credentialing Systems (FiXs) is a not-for-profit, certified 501(c)6 trade association comprised of commercial companies, including government contractors, and not-for-profit organizations. FiXs is registered in the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom to support the development of identity authentication standards and to provide authentication of personal identity across a secure network. FiXs provides the only end-to-end globally-accessible network that is interoperable with the U.S. Department of Defense. The FiXs Network delivers a secure, scalable capability that allows trusted identity verification and credential authentication for network users desiring access to a range of government and commercial facilities and systems. The FiXs Network meets current federally-mandated requirements, supports physical and logical access applications, and may be integrated with existing organizational personnel and access control systems, while fully leveraging the concept of federation and the FiXs Network's economies of scale.

For more information on FiXs and a list of the federation's more than fifty members and participating government organizations, please visit: www.fixs.org.