

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

National Institute of Standards and Technology

### **Call for Review and Comment on Initial USGv6 Testing Program.**

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology.

**ACTION:** Request for Comments.

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**SUMMARY:** NIST was tasked with developing a standards profile for IPv6 technologies and a means of assessing the compliance of products that claim to conform to the profile. Version 1 of the USGv6 profile was published in July of 2008 and recommended that vendors be given 24 months lead time to react to its requirements in their product lines.

The USGv6 Test Program will provide the means of assessing compliance to the profile. The objective of the Test Program is to create an open, flexible testing infrastructure that leverages existing industry efforts to the extent possible while providing USG users with the assurances necessary to protect early investments in IPv6 technologies.

This notice requests public review and comment on the set of guidance documents and test suites that will comprise the initial instantiation of the USGv6 Test Program. After a 30 day public comment period, NIST will revise and publish the documents and test suites that will constitute the initial test program with the final revisions scheduled to be completed by the end of the calendar year. At that point, the USGv6 Test Program will be operational such that accreditors, laboratories and vendors may begin working together to generate accredited test results.

**DATES:** Comments due on or before November 15th, 2009.

**ADDRESSES:** Available from <http://www.antd.nist.gov/usgv6/testing.html>. Please send electronic comments to [usgv6-testing-comments@antd.nist.gov](mailto:usgv6-testing-comments@antd.nist.gov), using the template found at the above website.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephen Nightingale, [usgv6-testing-comments@antd.nist.gov](mailto:usgv6-testing-comments@antd.nist.gov)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USGv6 Testing Program operational documents, tests and general information are available at the project website <http://www.antd.nist.gov/usgv6/testing.html>.

Test specifications and test selections are offered here for public review by interested parties, including IPv6 product developers, laboratory accreditation bodies, test laboratories and USG Agencies.

- These are the tests define the meaning of USGv6-v1.0 compliance.
- Executable test methods used in accredited test laboratories must be traceable back to these.
- After this public review and necessary revisions, a final set of test suites will be published and designated as USGV6-V1.0 tests.
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To assist in review of the tests for Network Protection and IPsec/IKEv2 ICSALabs ([www.icsalabs.com](http://www.icsalabs.com)) is holding a test event in the week of November 10 -13 at Fortinet, Sunnyvale CA. Contact [guy.snyder@icsalabs.com](mailto:guy.snyder@icsalabs.com) for details.

NIST SP 500-273 “USGv6 Test Methods: General Description and Validation” has been revised to include details of the process for inter-laboratory comparisons and to add additional checks and balances in the management of the program. Some of the revisions include:

- Accreditors proposing to offer assessment and accreditation programs must notify NIST of their intention to create USGv6 programs, in order to be listed on the USGv6 website.
- Accreditors must notify NIST when test laboratories are accredited, together with the test methods in their scope of accreditation.
- NIST will hold annual review meetings for the USGv6 Test Program to:
  - o review and resolve inter-laboratory comparisons.
  - o resolve test specification interpretation problems.
  - o review the efficacy of the testing program.

NIST DRAFT SP 500-281 “USGv6 Testing Program User’s Guide” is a new document aimed at providing an overview of the testing program and its operation and management. The guide addresses several issues of general interest, including:

- o a description of the testing program.
- o analysis of the lifecycles of profiles and tests and their impact on interoperability.
- o details of the Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity (SDOC), what it includes, conditions for creation, and how it is to be used.

NIST requests review and comment on all the above materials to help ensure a testing program launch that is successful for all stakeholders.