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**Local Researchers Receive Department of Commerce's Highest Honor
for Enhancement of Public Safety Communications**

A team of three researchers from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Institute for Telecommunication Sciences (ITS) in Boulder, Colorado, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recently received a group Gold Medal for Scientific/Engineering Achievement from the U.S. Department of Commerce at ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

Kameron Behnam of NTIA/ITS, Mudumbai Ranganathan of NIST, and Stephen Quirolgico of NIST received a group Gold Medal for their efforts to enhance public safety communications. This accomplishment supports the Commerce Department's goal of improving public safety communications to better serve Americans and protect American security.

The team received the award for developing the Department of Commerce ISSI Evaluation and Test System (DIETS) software tool. The tool is being used by industry to verify that communication interfaces between different "first responder" radio systems are working and that commercial radio systems meet communication standards for interoperability. First responders include police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and dispatchers.

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