



STAR™ Program Overview

The "Service Tested – Academy Recognized" Program

How products, platforms, equipment, technologies and tools can be reviewed, assessed, evaluated and vetted by trusted members, peers and maritime operators.

Background

The National Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (NMLEA) was formed in 2000 as a non-profit professional provider of subject matter expertise in the maritime law enforcement and public safety arena, offering Assessment, Assistance, Advocacy, Consultation, Training, Tools, Technologies and Service to the professionals that patrol, protect and preserve our Nation's waterways.

Our focus is on raising the level of professionalism, proficiency, officer safety and survival through customized training through nationally recognized instructors, a cadre of specialty SMEs from every aspect of maritime law public safety, and access to resources that can directly enhance their operations and readiness.

Finding the Right Equipment for your Mission: The Challenges

Today's maritime public safety agencies face a lot of challenges, as outlined in an NMLEA White Paper entitled *Navigating the Changing Seascape* (Sept 2017)¹. And when it comes to searching for and selecting new mission specific equipment, those challenges are accentuated by the loss of institutional knowledge (experienced people within your agency who have retired), limited personnel resources (and consequently, the responsibility to search for and select new equipment falls on an officer who is already multi-tasking), and likely inadequately trained or an inexperienced procurement agent. Vendors, equipment providers and manufacturers face similar challenges as they rarely have the bandwidth and marketing resources to personally reach all of the prospective clients, and thoroughly educate them with the information which allow agencies to make fiscally responsible equipment choices. As the bridge between industry and the agencies, the Academy has the answer.



The Solution

The NMLEA has developed a program to help agencies and vendors discern products in a crowded marketplace by utilizing our trained and seasoned staff along with members to provide a reviews and evaluations of products. Our cadre of professionals have spent more than two decades compiling a body of knowledge and developing solutions for agencies in the areas of equipment evaluation, testing, acquisition, management and sustainment.

¹ A copy available through this link: <https://form.jotform.us/72647782084163>, or by email request to info@nmlea.org.



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We've taken that experience to develop an evaluation and assessment protocol and called it the **NMLEA STAR PROGRAM: Service Tested – Academy Recognized**. Helping teams throughout the Nation at the local, county, state, federal, tribal, military and private sector levels (and Internationally through the IMLEA), the STAR Program provides a network of operators, peers and subject matter experts to assist in the evaluation and assessment processes.

How it Works

Vendors and manufacturers with new or existing products can submit their new or existing products to the NMLEA for STAR Program review. Being vendor agnostic, the Academy selects a minimum of five evaluators/subject matter experts/operators that meet the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for each STAR Project. After selection of the team, the assigned STAR Project Manager applies a NMLEA structured evaluation and assessment process that consists of five phases: Product Submission, Initial Assessment, Functional Evaluation, Operator Review and Final Report. Some examples of the categories examined in each of the Phases (depending on the type of product being evaluated) are the following:



Phase I: Product Submission

- Submission/evaluation interview
- Confirmation of applicable evaluation criteria
- Staff Project Manager assigned
- Selection of Evaluation, Testing and Assessment Team
- Timeline established
- Safety plan established
- Safety Coordinator assigned
- Planning and Logistics conducted
- Project initiated
- Shipping/delivery to designated evaluation points

Phase II: Initial Evaluation

- Applicability
- Performs or facilitates a work function in a way that did or did not previously exist
- Criticality of product function to operations
- Comparison to other items on the market
- Is Training Provided?
- Are Instructions accurate, user friendly?
- Ergonomics
- Quality

Phase III: Functional Evaluation/Field Testing

- Functionality
- Did it work?
- Does it do what it says it will do?
- Efficiency



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- Effectiveness
- Ease of operation
- User interface
- Training required/recommended

Phase IV: Post Evaluation and Operator Review

- Would recommend this to my agency
- Availability
- Maintenance
- Dependability
- Pricing
- Sustainability
- Support & Serviceability
- Time on the market/experience

Phase V: Final Report with Equipment Scoring and Comments

- Impact on Operations
- Posting of Report Findings
- Use of STAR Logo Authorized

What does this cost?

To cover the time necessary for a minimum of five subject matter experts/operators to conduct the STAR Program evaluation and assessment and move the equipment through the various test processes, we charge a fee based on the size and complexity of the product. Contact us today, and we can give you a direct proposal based on the scope of your STAR Program submission and specific project needs.



We're Here to Help

Let the Academy evaluate your products, and provide you with a review that has the support of our members behind it. Contact: John Hotz, NMLEA Assistant Director and STAR Program Manager
John.Hotz@NMLEA.org or 386-233-4198.