

IBIS Safeguard Proposal Justification Language

The act of discharging ammunition through a firearm leaves markings on the cartridge casing. These markings are unique to the firearm that was used to fire the ammunition, and as such can be used to link cartridge casings recovered from crime scenes to specific firearms as well as to cartridge casings from other crime scenes. The cartridge casings are placed into the BRASSTRAX Acquisition Station which captures high resolution 2D and 3D images of the cartridge casing. The images of the cartridge casing are entered into NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network). This network allows cartridge casings from across the country to be compared to each other. The NIBIN system will return a list of potential matches. The MATCHPOINT Analysis Station is then used by the Forensic Examiner to review these potential matches and see if any crimes can be linked. The service agreement through Forensic Technology is structured to ensure continued compatibility with the NIBIN network. As such, Forensic Technology is the only vendor capable of covering this equipment. Only a service agreement through Forensic Technology can provide remote monitoring of the system, 24/7 technical support, automatic software upgrades that ensure ongoing compatibility with the NIBIN network, hardware upgrades needed to keep pace with software updates, annual training, and assistance in the creation of customized report templates. Furthermore, servicing of this equipment requires access to proprietary, commercially-sensitive information that is only usable by employees of Forensic Technology

By continuing to re-license and support the existing instrument, we are able to continue to utilize the IBIS® BRASSTRAX Acquisition Station provided by the ATF. Research revealed that if the department were required to purchase this instrument the cost could range from \$100,001 - \$250K.