



May 5, 2021

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Madam Vice President:

Congratulations on your election as the 49th Vice President of the United States. On behalf of the Fiber Optic Sensing Association (FOSA), we wish you and President Biden the very best as you lead our country during a time of great challenge, but one that holds much promise and opportunity.

FOSA is comprised of industry leaders in distributed fiber optic sensing (DFOS) technology, including companies and academic institutions that manufacture, install, test, evaluate, and support or use DFOS systems and equipment. Our members have delivered thousands of mature, commercially ready, and viable solutions across the United States and around the world.

DFOS systems are sensor technologies used to constantly and consistently monitor international borders (see attached diagram), critical infrastructure, roads, bridges, railways, pipelines, power stations, terrestrial and subsea power cables, and telecom networks. DFOS systems connect laser interrogator units to a fiber optic cable converting the optical fiber to an array of distributed sensors. The fiber optic cable delivers real time information, identifying and pinpointing the precise location of events and conditions occurring at or near the sensor cable. Such events include foot traffic, vehicular movement, hand and machine digging and tunneling among many others.

The President recently entrusted you with the responsibility of addressing migration from the Northern Triangle countries. We understand that you have engaged with leaders from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to secure their borders, curb the flow of migration, and prevent traffickers, smugglers, and cartels from reaching the U.S.-Mexico border. While these countries have promised to increase their police and military presence at their borders, it may not be enough. DFOS systems offer a rapidly deployable, highly-effective additional layer of border detection to assist these countries in gaining operational control of their borders.

The Mexico-Guatemala border is 541 miles; the Guatemala-El Salvador border is 126 miles; and the Guatemala-Honduras border is 159 miles (total of 826 miles). In comparison, the U.S.-Mexico Border is 1,954 miles. Any assistance the U.S. provides to the Northern Triangle countries to achieve operational control of their borders should be a fraction of the cost incurred to process, house, and support those migrants waiting at the U.S. border. More importantly, securing the borders of these countries will drastically reduce the number of migrants who perish or go missing when traveling to the U.S.-Mexico border.

FOSA respectfully requests the opportunity to provide a briefing on this efficient and effective technology to you and your appropriate staff members. Our leaders will present demonstrations of DFOS technology currently being used to monitor international borders (see diagram below). Please contact FOSA Executive Director Mark Uncapher at 240-685-1853 or MUncapher@fiberopticsensing.org should you have any questions or require additional information.

On behalf of FOSA member companies, we thank you for your consideration. Our industry is committed to assisting you and your administration in this meaningful work.

Most Respectfully,

/s/

Kent Wardley
Chair

Cc: The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security

Attachment

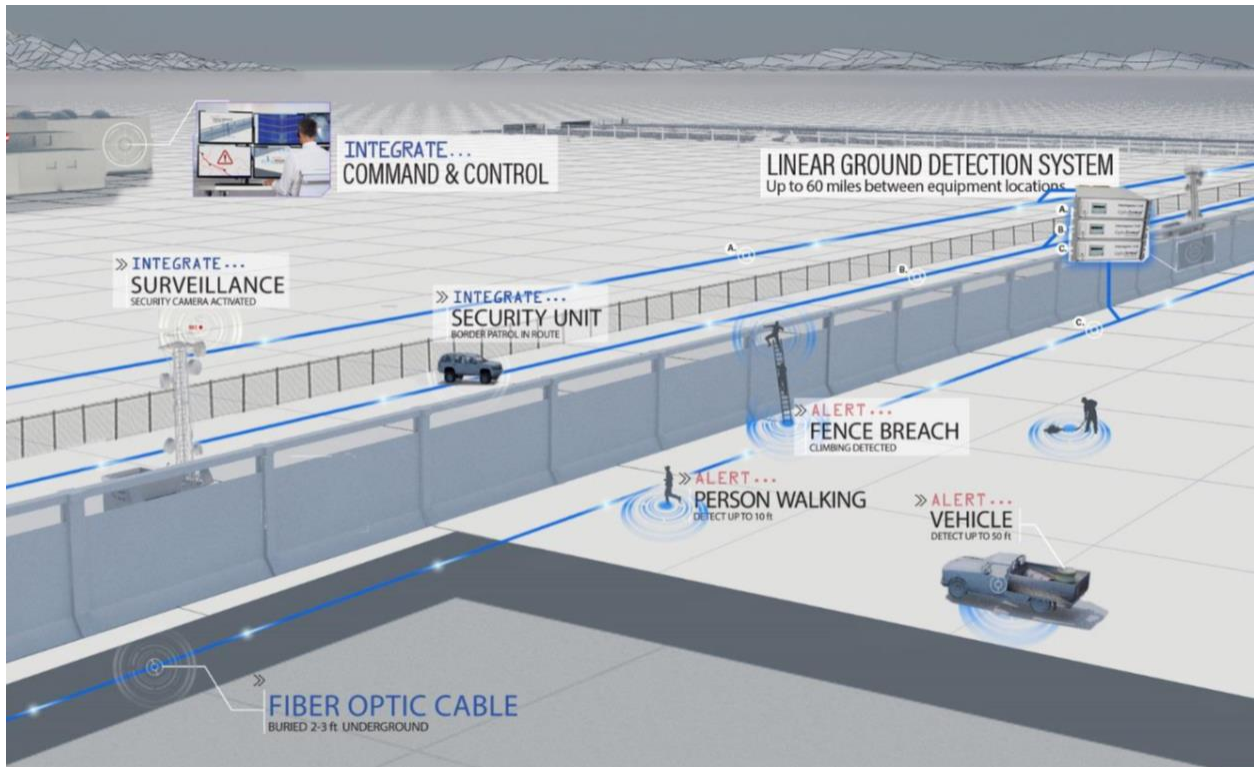


Diagram of deployed distributed fiber optic sensing (DFOS) system for monitoring an international border.