**Panel Session:**   *The NIAP Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme—The Future of*
*Commercial Security Testing and Evaluation*
**Session Chair: Ron Ross, NIST**
**Panelists: Robin Medlock, Mitretek Systems, Jeffrey Horlick, NIST, TBD**

The development of the Common Criteria, Common Evaluation Methodology, and Common Criteria Mutual Recognition Agreement have accelerated the transition of information technology (IT) security testing and evaluation to the private sector. This panel session describes the framework and implementation plans for the National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme. The panelists, from government and industry, will discuss a variety of important topics related to the emerging NIAP scheme to include the prospective roles and responsibilities of the key participants in the scheme, (i.e., sponsors of IT security evaluations, accredited Common Criteria Testing Laboratories, and the NIAP Oversight Body).

The panel will begin with an overview of the NIAP Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme by the Program Manager for scheme development and implementation. The planned organizational structure of the NIAP scheme and the specific responsibilities of the NIAP Oversight Body with respect to technical oversight and validation of IT product evaluations will be described. A brief overview of Common Criteria Certificates and the scheme requirements related to the pending Common Criteria Mutual Recognition Agreement will also be discussed.

After the general overview, the panel will address the concept of Common Criteria Testing Laboratories and the planned process (currently under development) for becoming a National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) accredited testing laboratory within the NIAP scheme.  The general requirements for laboratory accreditation will be presented as well as the specific areas of proficiency required in IT security to demonstrate competence in conducting IT security evaluations as part of the NIAP scheme.

Finally, the panel will provide a *consumers* perspective of Common Criteria testing and evaluation. Alternatives for using the Common Criteria to articulate IT product security requirements will be discussed and how conformance to those requirements can be achieved. Related activities for demonstrating Common Criteria conformance will be presented and compared to the approach being development by NIAP.

In addition to the topics described above, the panelists will discuss the scheme's important development milestones and general activities of interest to the community. An interactive question and answer session is planned for the last thirty minutes of the panel session.