

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**



**Privacy Threshold Analysis  
for the  
OpenWater LI-SaaS (OpenWater LI-SaaS)**

## U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Threshold Analysis

### USPTO OpenWater LI-SaaS (OpenWater LI-SaaS)

**Unique Project Identifier: EBPL-CCE-01-00**

**Introduction:** This Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) is a questionnaire to assist with determining if a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is necessary for this IT system. This PTA is primarily based from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) privacy guidance and the Department of Commerce (DOC) IT security/privacy policy. If questions arise or further guidance is needed in order to complete this PTA, please contact your Bureau Chief Privacy Officer (BCPO).

**Description of the information system:** *Provide a brief description of the information system.*

The E-Government Act of 2002 defines “information system” by reference to the definition section of Title 44 of the United States Code. The following is a summary of the definition: “Information system” means a discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information. See: 44. U.S.C. § 3502(8).

Open Water LI-SaaS (OpenWater LI-SaaS) is a general-purpose application and review system. USPTO uses Open Water LI-SaaS to collect and review nominations of individuals, teams, and organizations for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation (NMTI), America’s highest honor for technological achievement bestowed by the President of the United States. USPTO administers this award on behalf of the White House and the Department of Commerce (DOC). Low impact, non-mission critical information can be collected by OpenWater LI-SaaS and centralized for reviewers to provide scores and feedback.

Address the following elements:

**a) *Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system***

OpenWater LI-SaaS is a Low Impact Software as a Service (LI-SaaS).

**b) *System location***

OpenWater LI-SaaS is hosted in the Microsoft Azure Commercial Cloud.

**c) *Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)***

OpenWater LI-SaaS interconnects with the following systems:

- **ICAM Identity as a Service (ICAM-IdaaS)** provides authentication and authorization services to all enterprise USPTO applications and information systems.
- **PTONet System (PTONet)** provides the common network which connects all USPTO applications and network access for employees, contractors, Public Search Room visitors to applications and systems in IT-East and IT-West data centers.

***d) The purpose that the system is designed to serve***

OpenWater LI-SaaS offers collection and review functionality of the NMTI award nominations.

***e) The way the system operates to achieve the purpose***

OpenWater LI-SaaS is a web-based awards management software to support the USPTO administration of the NMTI. Members of the public submit nominations and then a committee of judges evaluates and scores the nominations within the system. The judges are composed of public experts appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. Nominators and judges have their own unique login information to access the system. USPTO employees and contractors have administrative access and can change the nomination or judging process as needed.

***f) A general description of the type of information collected, maintained, used, or disseminated by the system***

Members of the public submit nominations directly within the system to include biographical information and letters of recommendation. Unique login information of nominators, judges, and USPTO employees and contractors includes user first name, last name, and email address.

***g) Identify individuals who have access to information on the system***

Nominators and judges are members of the public. USPTO employees and contractors have access to information in the system.

***h) How information in the system is retrieved by the user***

Nominators, judges, USPTO employees and contractors will access OpenWater LI-SaaS using a web interface.

***i) How information is transmitted to and from the system***

Information is transmitted to and from OpenWater LI-SaaS over the internet. Data flow to and from the system via Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) and is secured using Transport Layer Security (TLS) 1.2 protocol.

**Questionnaire:**

1. Status of the Information System

1a. What is the status of this information system?

- This is a new information system. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*
- This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks. *Complete chart below, continue to answer questions, and complete certification.*

<b>Changes That Create New Privacy Risks (CTCNPR)</b>					
a. Conversions	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Significant Merging	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. New Interagency Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Anonymous to Non-Anonymous	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. New Public Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Internal Flow or Collection	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Significant System Management Changes	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Commercial Sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Alteration in Character of Data	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other changes that create new privacy risks (specify):					

- This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is not a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*
- This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment. *Skip questions and complete certification.*

1b. Has an IT Compliance in Acquisitions Checklist been completed with the appropriate signatures?

- Yes. This is a new information system.
- Yes. This is an existing information system for which an amended contract is needed.
- No. The IT Compliance in Acquisitions Checklist is not required for the acquisition of equipment for specialized Research and Development or scientific purposes that are not a National Security System.
- No. This is not a new information system.

2. Is the IT system or its information used to support any activity which may raise privacy concerns?

NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 4, Appendix J, states “Organizations may also engage in activities that do not involve the collection and use of PII, but may nevertheless raise privacy concerns and associated risk. The privacy controls are equally applicable to those activities and can be used to analyze the privacy risk and mitigate such risk when necessary.” Examples include, but are not limited to, audio recordings, video surveillance, building entry readers, and electronic purchase transactions.

- Yes. *(Check all that apply.)*

<b>Activities</b>			
Audio recordings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Building entry readers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video surveillance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic purchase transactions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify):			

- No.

3. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate business identifiable information (BII)?

As per DOC Privacy Policy: "For the purpose of this policy, business identifiable information consists of (a) information that is defined in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." (5 U.S.C.552(b)(4)). This information is exempt from automatic release under the (b)(4) FOIA exemption. "Commercial" is not confined to records that reveal basic commercial operations" but includes any records [or information] in which the submitter has a commercial interest" and can include information submitted by a nonprofit entity, or (b) commercial or other information that, although it may not be exempt from release under FOIA, is exempt from disclosure by law (e.g., 13 U.S.C.)."

- Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates BII.
- No, this IT system does not collect any BII.

4. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

4a. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII?

As per OMB 17-12: "The term PII refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity either alone or when combined with other information that is linked or linkable to a specific individual."

- Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII about: *(Check all that apply.)*
  - DOC employees
  - Contractors working on behalf of DOC
  - Other Federal Government personnel
  - Members of the public
- No, this IT system does not collect any PII.

***If the answer is "yes" to question 4a, please respond to the following questions.***

4b. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate Social Security numbers (SSNs), including truncated form?

- Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates SSNs, including truncated form.

Provide an explanation for the business need requiring the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.
Provide the legal authority which permits the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.

- No, the IT system does not collect, maintain, or disseminate SSNs, including truncated form.

4c. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII other than user ID?

- Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII other than user ID.
- No, the user ID is the only PII collected, maintained, or disseminated by the IT system.

4d. Will the purpose for which the PII is collected, stored, used, processed, disclosed, or disseminated (context of use) cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level?

Examples of context of use include, but are not limited to, law enforcement investigations, administration of benefits, contagious disease treatments, etc.

- Yes, the context of use will cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.
- No, the context of use will not cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

***If any of the answers to questions 2, 3, 4b, 4c, and/or 4d are “Yes,” a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed for the IT system. This PTA and the SAOP approved PIA must be a part of the IT system’s Assessment and Authorization Package.***

## CERTIFICATION

The criteria implied by one or more of the questions above **apply** to the OpenWater LI-SaaS (OpenWater LI-SaaS) and as a consequence of this applicability, a PIA will be performed and documented for this IT system.

The criteria implied by the questions above **do not apply** to the OpenWater LI-SaaS (OpenWater LI-SaaS) and as a consequence of this non-applicability, a PIA for this IT system is not necessary.

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<p><b>Privacy Act Officer</b>                  Name: Ezequiel Berdichevsky                  Office: Office of General Law (O/GL)                  Phone: (571) 270-1557                  Email: Ezequiel.Berdichevsky@uspto.gov</p> <p>Signature: <u>Users, Berdichevsky, Ezequiel</u> <small>Digitally signed by Users, Berdichevsky, Ezequiel Date: 2022.03.07 09:18:58 -05'00'</small></p> <p>Date signed: _____</p>	<p><b>Bureau Chief Privacy Officer and Co-Authorizing Official</b>                  Name: Henry J. Holcombe                  Office: Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO)                  Phone: (571) 272-9400                  Email: Jamie.Holcombe@uspto.gov</p> <p>Signature: <u>Users, Holcombe, Henry</u> <small>Digitally signed by Users, Holcombe, Henry Date: 2022.03.08 15:21:28 -05'00'</small></p> <p>Date signed: _____</p>
<p><b>Co-Authorizing Official</b>                  Name: Cara Duckworth                  Office: Office of the Chief Communications Officer (C/CCO)                  Phone: (571) 272-4989                  Email: Cara.Duckworth@uspto.gov</p> <p>Signature: <u>Users, Duckworth, Cara</u> <small>Digitally signed by Users, Duckworth, Cara Date: 2022.03.21 23:21:01 -04'00'</small></p> <p>Date signed: _____</p>	