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**Drakontas Receives Continuation Award for Training Program  
to Investigate and Prevent Crimes in Virtual Communities and Gaming Worlds**

*Through a Cooperative Agreement from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance, Drakontas and Drexel University will expand their training program for the law enforcement community on crimes committed in virtual worlds and related response strategies*

**CAMDEN, NJ**– Drakontas LLC today announced that it had been awarded a Cooperative Agreement from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, an office within the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, to continue and expand upon its existing training and technical assistance program for law enforcement professionals that focuses on the issues and methods of prevention related to crimes committed in virtual worlds and online gaming communities.

“Virtual worlds and online gaming communities are today’s modern playgrounds. Even the most secure digital playgrounds offer new opportunities for criminals to commit traditional crimes through unmonitored communications channels, thereby making law enforcement’s job more difficult,” said Dr. Brian Regli, CEO of Drakontas LLC and co-Principal Investigator of the Cooperative Agreement. “Without continued training in this space, law enforcement professionals will fall behind criminals in their knowledge of modern technologies and services and how they are being exploited for illicit purposes.”

Drakontas and Drexel University, through its Criminal Justice Program, will conduct ten (10) one-day in-person training courses across the country for State and local law enforcement practitioners related to the latest forensic techniques for seizing gaming consoles and related networking equipment and media, the threats and vulnerabilities to users of virtual and gaming worlds, and the use of virtual and gaming worlds as a tool to investigate and prevent crimes.

“We are extremely proud of the work our team has achieved to date, having already trained over 250 law enforcement professionals,” added Dr. Regli. “However, there is much more to be done. We are grateful that the Bureau of Justice Assistance has put their support behind this critical training program in light of the current economic environment during which many other similar programs have been pared back or eliminated altogether.”

**About Drakontas LLC**

Drakontas ([www.drakontas.com](http://www.drakontas.com)), headquartered in Camden, New Jersey, develops mobile collaboration software that increase the safety and operational efficiency of law enforcement, emergency response, and security personnel. The company was founded in partnership with Drexel University in 2004 to transition technologies developed at the Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) Center for the Department of Defense to commercial, civilian and homeland security uses.

### **About Drexel University**

Drexel University ([www.drexel.edu](http://www.drexel.edu)) is a nationally ranked private institution located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It has received a Carnegie Foundation ranking of doctoral granting university with high research activity. Drexel has positioned itself as a leader in the fields of electronic crime and digital forensics research and education. Its research and educational activities in these areas have addressed technical, behavioral, and legal issues related to electronic fraud, seizing cell phones, computer-facilitated sexual exploitation of children, terrorism, online harassment, intellectual property theft, network intrusions, and techniques to hide criminal activity in cyberspace. Drexel has received funding from the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the U.S. Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Defense to support this work. The university continues to support the law enforcement community by providing consultation to agencies on computer technologies encountered during investigations and through workforce development courses on electronic crime investigative techniques.

### **About the Bureau of Justice Assistance**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. BJA supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system.

For more information, visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>

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