C A S E   S T U D Y

USDA ARS

Transforming Agricultural Research Through vTech's Innovative Solutions

About USDA ARS

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the primary scientific in-house research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, plays a vital role in identifying and resolving agricultural challenges affecting Americans daily. With a commitment to ensuring the highest quality food for all, ARS approached vTech to enhance their network and internet access at its local and international field locations.

Challenges

The USDA ARS sought to bolster network and internet access to maintain stability, security, and transport speeds for mission-critical operations. Specifically, the focus was on optimizing data transport speeds and analysis for research and administrative staff, with an additional emphasis on preserving family farms both environmentally and economically.

Services & Support Provided

vTech's risk assessment team tackled the challenges faced by USDA ARS through a meticulous process.

1) We conducted one-on-one interviews with key personnel including:
- Research Leaders
- Scientists
- Administrative Staff
- IT Specialists

2) We executed an Infrastructure Assessment that included:
- Performance Assessment
- Management Assessment
- Security Assessment
- Infrastructure Assessment

Both of these came together to identify solutions to remove bottlenecks, improve on-the-ground strategy, address vulnerabilities, and optimize each area.

Benefit

Our Comprehensive Analysis Report, which included all four assessments and adhered to NIST standards for RMF (Risk Management) and CSF (Cybersecurity) Frameworks, outlined key recommendations, standardizing the approach for the USDA ARS's risk management team.

One of the greatest value-add was our collaboration with ARS leadership and our focused approach to tailoring recommendations to fit their needs.

vTech's solution has revolutionized USDA ARS's network infrastructure in two significant ways.

1) We addressed critical user priorities and streamlined network architecture, enabling ARS to procure and implement uninterrupted networks at any field site.

2) Our security scan provided a comprehensive overview of the local network infrastructure, clear suggestions on how to properly secure the network.

Results

vTech's innovative approach exceeded USDA ARS's expectations, solidifying our commitment to becoming the most trusted and admired strategic partner in the industry. Our transformative solutions have not only enhanced the agency's technological capabilities but have also positioned them for continued success in addressing the agricultural challenges of today and tomorrow.