



NCOIC Progress & Priorities

*Message from Carl O'Berry, Chief Executive Officer, to all NCOIC Members and Advisors
January 6, 2015*

As NCOIC begins what will be another eventful and productive year, I want to share with you my thoughts about interoperability, the consortium's progress during 2014, and its priorities for 2015.

The good news is that, over the past 12 months, we saw an increase in activity to create interoperable systems. The bad news is that most of those efforts were isolated, taking place within individual agencies, corporations and small groups of businesses – not across industries or nations. Unless there is both intra- and inter-domain information sharing, organizations will not work faster or more efficiently and will eventually become irrelevant.

For the last decade, NCOIC has beat the drum for cross-domain interoperability and developed proven methodologies to achieve it. The consortium's unique processes address the four interdependent elements of interoperability: the technological factors as well as business, governance and cultural considerations. While NCOIC has helped a number of organizations, true interoperability continues to challenge the public and private sectors. It is imperative that the consortium moves quickly to extend its influence and impact on the free world's ability to communicate and collaborate across business and governmental borders.

Toward that end, NCOIC adopted a new operational model in 2014 and made strategic changes to move beyond its traditional focus on the defense community and meet critical needs in other areas. It added value that will help members and customers achieve their business objectives, enable interoperable IT environments, and further the vision for global cross-domain interoperability and the advancement of humankind.

NCOIC's key 2014 accomplishments include...

- Increased its participation in healthcare and first-responder segments
- Expanded and diversified the Board of Directors and Advisory Council to support new objectives
- Changed the membership, dues and benefits structure, adding categories for individuals and interdisciplinary business teams (IBTs) to promote greater participation
- Updated and expanded governance processes to enable IBTs to manage potential business opportunities while maintaining the consortium's nonprofit status and basic goals
- Developed the Rapid Response Incubator, a persistent, multi-cloud test environment that supports rapid technology/capability evolution and enables real-world testing
- Increased contract proposals and activity with government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Defense, First Responder Network Authority, U.S. Agency for International Development, and General Services Administration
- Expanded the consortium's base in Europe and established a collaboration capability with NATO
- Conducted a Cybersecurity Workshop and delivered a report on the problems, solutions and opportunities in maintaining a secure cloud environment for rapid response situations
- Introduced the NCOIC Rapid Response Capability (NRRC™) pattern
- Updated the SCOPE™ training package
- Published the MD3 (Multilevel Distributed Discovery and Dissemination) Pattern

- Rolled out new public and member websites as well as an Open Collaborative Environment capable of supporting the interactive needs of NCOIC technical teams and contract activities

In 2015, NCOIC will officially introduce the Rapid Response Incubator and undertake interoperability projects to support the needs of disaster responders. It will form a public-private partnership among key healthcare stakeholders to focus on creating both a standardized, interoperable IT environment and a top-level IT acquisition strategy. It will work with the NATO Communication and Information Agency and Allied Command Transformation on a process for identifying products and services with interoperable capability. It will continue its efforts in cybersecurity and in ensuring the protection of secure information in unclassified environments.

On behalf of the NCOIC Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your contributions during the past year. Because of your efforts, NCOIC offers significant benefits through its expertise and experience, its technical resources and teams, and its open and legal environment that promotes collaboration and innovation. This an exciting time for the consortium. I hope we can count on your continued participation and support to extend NCOIC's reach into key agencies and organizations so it can enable the technological advancements and capabilities that will lead to the betterment of our countries and our world.