



NCOIC Update to Members – August/September 2015

SPECIAL EDITION ON CONSORTIUM BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

The NCOIC Board of Directors and Advisory Council met on August 12, 2015 and this Member Update summarizes some of their discussions on the consortium's business goals and activities.



NATO Communications and Information Agency

The executives were given an update on NATO's IT modernization effort, which NCOIC has supported through a contract that began three years ago. The NCI has initiated a number of actions based on the NCOIC study and its recommendations. NCI leaders believe the study was of great value and that using NCOIC, a neutral industry body, added considerable credibility to their efforts.

The consortium is currently working with NCI on the development of a process to verify the interoperability of products and services being considered for acquisition. NCOIC will conduct an industry review of a product's stated/tested interoperability attributes (as supplied by the vendor or provider) to guide NCI acquisition practices. The goals of the verification are to: (1.) increase visibility to industry and NCI of its interoperability requirements and (2.) reduce risk in acquisition and operation. The initial focus is on the Federated Mission Network and the pilot interoperability verification will involve a chat application. NCOIC will soon send out a call for information to all members in order to gather input on the process. NCOIC's interoperability verification, which represents a new way of evaluating products and services, is critical to NCI since it can reduce risk, speed implementation and support the broader NATO environment.

NCI has also requested that NCOIC conduct a Voice of Industry review of its next version of the NATO Interoperability Standards and Profiles (NISP). This NCOIC project will be member led and give participants the opportunity to both review and comment on the next generation of NISP profiles that will guide NATO and NATO member nations in IT and the acquisition of products and services. For more information, contact Mark Bowler, Technical Council Chair, at mark.k.bowler@boeing.com.

New Business Activities

NCOIC business development efforts were outlined during the meeting. The consortium continues to review opportunities for supporting organizations like NCI that have a high need for interoperability. It is positioned to offer a range of business products and services including interoperability roadmaps, acquisition strategies, and test and evaluation projects.

NCOIC is also working to move laterally into new marketplaces, particularly the first responder and health care domains. Members representing the emergency response community are initiating activities that are varied and cross local and state boundaries. In the health domain, teams are aimed at securing a grant to build a roadmap for healthcare interoperability in the U.S. as well as focusing internationally on the needs of European agencies and organizations.

Consortium Status and Strengths

Also at the August 12 meeting, the leaders were briefed on the consortium's business model, which was updated approximately two years ago. It emphasizes the importance of the Board of Directors and Advisory Council in helping NCOIC grow and meet its vision for global cross-domain interoperability. NCOIC also implemented a new membership model last year, which has since brought in a number of new members that are actively contributing to the organization's initiatives.

In addition, the executives discussed a key discriminator of the consortium: its unique, open environment for industry, acquisition and legal neutrality. NCOIC is a 501(C)(6) corporation that is also compliant with the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A119 directive. NCOIC was formed in 2004 in accordance with the National Cooperative Research and Production Act (NCRPA), which allows and encourages potential competitors to collaborate as well as defines the requirements for the legal environment in which they can share information and ideas. Through the years, NCOIC has remained in compliance, and each quarter, has fulfilled the rigorous filing and reporting requirements with the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission. (This NCRPA status is only available at an organization's inception and cannot be retroactively obtained; if an organization fails to submit quarterly documentation, it permanently loses compliance.)

Thanks for your support!

There are two ways NCOIC remains financially viable to realize the vision of increasing cross domain interoperability – through its membership dues and through a small number of supporting contracts. Thank you, our members, for continuing to support the consortium's collective efforts in both!