NCOIC Update to Members – August 2016

Members Input Needed Now for NCI Agency Contracting Study

The NATO Communications and Information Agency has asked NCOIC to conduct a one-month study of industry best practices used by large organizations to address small business. Members and their business colleagues are being asked to submit information and ideas as soon as possible. During the first three weeks of August, NCOIC will collect input on industry acquisition processes and guidelines in order to assist the NCI Agency in developing a methodology to expedite small-value procurements that are funded by a NATO nation or external organization.

This study is designed to help enhance the agency's service delivery capability, meeting an increasing demand for products and services, and enabling countries to acquire goods and services that will ultimately support NATO missions. It is part of a four-phase project, the latest in NCOIC's ongoing partnership with NATO, and represents an excellent opportunity for companies to have input on how the NCI Agency manages this important aspect of its operations. Contact Ed Barger, Technical Director, at ed.barger@ncoic.org if you can provide high-level information and examples of best practices in small-business procurement. You are also encouraged to enlist the help of non-members and industry colleagues who would be interested in the project and have valuable information to share.

NATO Leaders Share Thoughts on Interoperability

In July, NCOIC held the second in a series of executive discussions on interoperability and achieving mission success in a joint operation. Leaders from NATO talked about their experiences trying to share information with different partners during disaster response and peacekeeping missions. They also offered advice on what's needed to achieve interoperability. The panel presentation capped a day of meetings by the NCOIC Board of Directors and Advisory Council. One of the themes that ran through all of the sessions is that interoperability is more than a concept, it is a requirement for success. To read an article about the NATO panel, go to the NCOIC website.
http://www.ncoic.org/images/news/NCOIC_InteroperabilityPanel7-2016.pdf

Secure Interoperability Governance Process Set to Publish

The Cybersecurity Integrated Project Team's Secure Interoperability Governance Process document has completed formal review and approval and will be published on the NCOIC website in August. SIGP addresses a critical element of secure collaboration and information exchange in today's environment–namely, governance, which must be addressed before any technical solution will succeed.

Members Encouraged to Join New NATO Interface Working Group

The Technical Council is forming a NATO Interface Working Group (NIWG) to explore and identify common practices, technology direction and industry models that could streamline interoperability implementation. The working group will provide a forum for discussing input for the new procurement study for the NATO Communications and Information Agency and will initially focus on expediting

acquisition processes, reducing administrative overhead costs and expediting delivery of capabilities and services. All NCOIC members are invited to participate in the working group activities and influence the recommendations made by NCOIC to the NCI Agency. For more information on how to join and participate in the NIWG, contact Ed Barger, Technical Director, at ed.barger@ncoic.org.

Interoperability Event to Enable Member Showcase of Capabilities
Pat Ryan, NCOIC Chief Technical Officer, reports that he's working with the Cloud Computing Working Group to hold the first in a series of MERLIN demonstration events later this year. MERLIN is an interoperability service that gives customers access to the consortium's on-demand demonstration, test and evaluation environment, known as the Rapid Response Incubator. MERLIN, which grew out of the successful community cloud demonstration in 2013, leverages the RRI as well as NCOIC's technical toolkit and proven approach to addressing the different aspects of creating cross-domain interoperability: governance, culture, business and technology. The team will create a secure federated-cloud infrastructure where members can showcase their products, services and concepts to support interoperability. The date of this demo will be set soon, so members should now be thinking about what capabilities they'd like to showcase. For information, contact Pat Ryan at pat.ryan@ncoic.org.

NCOIC Interoperability Verification Initiative Moves Along
NCOIC continues to investigate options for the Interoperability Verification Initiative with the NATO Communication and Information Agency and the NATO Allied Command Transformation, with the intent of negotiating a NATO-chosen pilot program after this month. Interested NCOIC members are welcome to join the IV Integrated Product Team. For more information, contact Ken Cureton at kenneth.l.cureton@ncoic.org.

Next Tech Team Webinar on Interoperability and Resilience
The Technical Council began holding a series of educational webinars in July. Dr. Craig Lee of The Aerospace Corporation made a presentation on federation management using virtual organizations and the approach the NCOIC is using on the Rapid Response Incubator. John Quaderer of Telos and the Cloud Computing Working Group gave a progress report on the incubator that included the RRI's accomplishments, development and potential. In the third webinar, Andy Born of Boeing, NCOIC Cybersecurity IPT Chair, discussed the content, use and benefit of using the NCOIC Secure Interoperability Governance Process when creating secure, federated-cloud environments for information exchange and coordination systems. The next session on interoperability and resilience will be held in late August by Mark Bowler of Boeing, NCOIC Tech Council Chair. Members will receive an email from him with the details.

Connect to NCOIC
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Help spread the word that NCOIC does what other organizations can't–because of our robust legal environment, proven products and services, experience in implementing net-centric operations, and valuable input from experts in a range of industries and disciplines.