IDGA awards NCOIC for leadership in net-centric operations
Consortium's model cuts lab integration time and cost by 66 percent

WASHINGTON - January 26, 2011 - The Institute for Defense and Government Advancement (IDGA) today announced that the Network Centric Operations Industry Consortium (NCOIC) has won IDGA's annual award, "Outstanding Contribution to the Development of NCO." The award recognizes those who have made a measurable contribution to the advancement and development of network centric operations.

As evidence of its measurable contribution, NCOIC submitted the Laboratory Interoperability Project to IDGA's panel of judges. The project established a proven model that industry and government can use to cut lab integration time and cost by 66 percent.

During three increasingly more challenging 2010 demonstrations, NCOIC's project team achieved and validated lab interoperability. First, collaborating across the Atlantic, people from ten labs at Lockheed Martin, EADS, Boeing, Raytheon, IBM, Selex-Finmeccanica, Thales and Cisco shared a fully integrated common operating picture in real time. The second and third live demonstrations confirmed the team's ability to reduce the time, cost and risk of integrating lab infrastructure by 66 percent. Throughout the process the project team relied on an NCOIC-pioneered technical framework to insure interoperability among the company labs. In addition, they proved that commercial resources such as the Internet and cloud computing could boost time and cost savings.

For decades, government and industry have used laboratory modeling/ simulation and other techniques to evaluate the effectiveness of their systems, concepts and capabilities. These events have often been expensive, time-consuming and beset by policy issues.

The result of following NCOIC's model is that government and industry can discover how net-centric their current and planned systems, concepts, procedures are. Now they can do this more quickly, less expensively and with greater ability to conduct joint and global experimentation. In addition, the model contains provisions for assuring that export regulations are honored and that industry's intellectual property is shielded.

"Industry can use NCOIC's model to lower the cost of teaming and reduce the time needed to put new products and services in the marketplace," said Tip Slater, former director of Boeing Company's Virtual Operations. "Companies can now focus on developing tools and applications rather than reinventing infrastructure when they conduct collaborative modeling and simulation events such as demonstrations, tests or experiments."

NCOIC's technical framework, the lessons learned, team recommendations and other documentation that resulted from the three live demonstrations are now available at: https://www.ncoic.org/technology/deliverables/resources/lab_interop/.

The Network Centric Operations Industry Consortium (NCOIC) is a not-for-profit association committed to the rapid global deployment of network-centric applications. Established in 2004, NCOIC consists of members from 19 nations. They represent defense companies, large-scale systems integrators, information technology providers, government agencies and academia. NCOIC's advisory bodies include government officials, standards groups and other key stakeholders. For more information, visit www.NCOIC.org.

 The IDGA is a non-partisan, information-based organization dedicated to the promotion of innovative ideas in public service and defense. Its NCW Awards honor, recognize and promote initiatives that exemplify the principles of network-centric warfare and support information age transformation. For more information, visit www.idga.org.