Net-centric consortium certifies government and industry's ability to predict interoperability needs and drivers

WASHINGTON -April 12, 2011 - The Network Centric Operations Industry Consortium (NCOIC) recently certified representatives from Australia's Department of Defence (DoD)-along with Australian and U.S. companies-as being qualified to assess their respective systems' interoperability needs using NCOIC's Systems of Systems, Capabilities, Operations, Programs and Enterprises (SCOPE) tool. NCOIC trained 15 people to conduct SCOPE workshops within their organizations, and another three in the general use of SCOPE.

SCOPE is an evaluation model that helps designers to describe the operational and technical spaces in which their systems may interoperate within a network. The model helps its users to explore complex interoperability concepts using a structured approach: the result is a prediction of a given program, system or enterprise's interoperability needs and drivers.

The benefits of attaining interoperability in the aerospace and military arenas are akin to Internet operations, where disparate systems can deliver service to consumers seamlessly and transparently. But-for aerospace and military organizations-the high cost of not achieving interoperability can be counted in lives perished, critical time wasted, operational effectiveness hampered, and billions of dollars spent unnecessarily each year.

Among NCOIC's certified SCOPE practitioners were Australian DoD representatives, who had previously assessed the tool's capabilities.

"The Australian DoD found the SCOPE methodology a very useful way in which to help our various constituencies begin to understand the common issues of interoperability," said Graham King, chief architect and director general of General Enterprise Architecture for the Australian DoD. "The exercises we conducted proved a very valuable element of our path towards developing our Single Information Environment."

Global industry and government can use SCOPE to evaluate existing programs and proposals-always enabling them to strive for increased effectiveness within a mission space-and always to frame that challenge in the context of interoperability.

Certifying of the first set of SCOPE practitioner's marks the beginning of a much broader program whose aim is to teach more people to apply NCOIC interoperability tools successfully. SCOPE and other tools are available at www.ncoic.org.

NCOIC is an established forum where industry and government can openly and freely collaborate on interoperability-in full compliance with all applicable laws regarding export control, anti-trust, taxation, government ethics rules, and others. Within this setting, government can engage industry in open dialogs that cannot be held so transparently elsewhere. Government can hear industry's consensus as well as its minority viewpoints; industry can gain insight about government's technical objectives.

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