



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SIMULATION

The NCS Nation Newsflash

April 2024

The NCS Nation Newsflash highlights initiatives, future events, leadership team updates, and Board of Directors and member company insights. Follow our social media platforms for up-to-the-minute updates!



A Message From George Cheros, Our CEO & President



Welcome to our Spring NCS Nation Newsflash!

We are off to a tremendous first quarter here at NCS. We opened the year with a lively Annual Membership Night in January. I have repeatedly heard from members that "more business gets done at Membership Night than any other event". In addition to the fun, food, and refreshments, there is a lot that takes place behind the scenes, so you don't want to miss next year's event. I owe a big thanks to our NCS and STARBASE staff for their hard work and passion for this and all of our events. A special shout-out to Lana Wallis for stepping up to lead the charge!

Also, our 11th Annual Lou Frey Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was held at the prestigious Interlachen Country Club on March 25, 2024. A big thanks to all of the sponsors and tournament co-chairs Brian Holmes and Marcia Bexley. These two individuals have co-chaired the event since it began and we have realized well over \$500,000 for scholarships, STEM, and Civics education. I hope you will plan to join us at the Florida Simulation Summit on April 25 at the Doubletree Hotel at the entrance to Universal Studios. This is now truly a regional event as Seminole and Osceola counties have joined Orange County as our event partners. This year's exciting theme is Transforming Health Care through Intelligent Technologies.

Finally, we are working with our Board of Directors and stakeholders to provide new avenues of support for our members to support our original goal of advancing M&S technology. Stay tuned...

I hope you find this newsletter to be informative. Feel free to personally contact Neal or me with any questions and suggestions. Thanks for the continued support!

George

George E. Cheros
President and CEO

The NCS Team Is Your Partner - Ready to Support You!



The National Center for Simulation (NCS) was founded nearly three decades ago with the mission to spearhead the growth of the Modeling and Simulation industry. In collaboration with Team Orlando, government entities, and academia, we are dedicated to providing the necessary platform, infrastructure, and resources to foster the development and expansion of this crucial technology.

Our overarching objectives revolve around supporting our industry, which continually delivers cutting-edge solutions to the Warfighter across all branches of the military. Additionally, we strive to facilitate the transfer of technology to civilian vertical markets and strongly advocate for the advancement of STEM education from elementary through postgraduate levels.

With a membership of 360 entities, our organization encompasses a diverse range of companies, spanning from large primes to numerous small and startup businesses. Our initiatives are designed to promote collaboration and integration, particularly focusing on bridging defense developers and technology users into various sectors such as construction, energy, entertainment, healthcare, gaming, space, and transportation. Through these efforts, we aim to drive innovation and enhance the impact of Modeling and Simulation technology across diverse industries and applications.

NCS Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame is Scheduled for

October 23, 2024, at the Wall of Fame, Orange County Convention Center



The National Center for Simulation Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame began in 2014 in partnership with the Orange County Government, including the Office of the Mayor of Orange County and the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC). The M&S Hall of Fame honors and recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have pioneered the development of modeling and simulation over the past 100 years. This is a free event to register. Please register at this [link](#).

NCS 2024 Board of Directors

NCS Board of Directors



Florida Simulation Summit 2024 Thursday, April 25th



In collaboration with the National Center for Simulation, the governments of Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties invite you to the 2024 Florida Simulation Summit. This year's summit is a collaborative partnership between Orange, Seminole, and Osceola county governments, and the National Center for Simulation.

The summit will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel at the entrance to Universal Studios on Thursday, April 25, 2024. The summit will be from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with an optional ultimate experience tour following the summit. This summit will explore transformative healthcare and technologies that leverage modeling, simulation, and artificial intelligence.

Now in its ninth year, and for the first time in history, we have broadened our partnership to encompass Seminole and Osceola counties. Themed "Transforming Healthcare Through Intelligent Technologies," this summit will provide a dynamic and immersive experience bringing together leaders, innovators, and experts.

The event will feature engaging panel discussions addressing topics related to predictive intelligence for pandemic prevention; behavioral wellness and cognitive performance; sports medicine and the human experience; artificial intelligence- and simulation-use cases in medical tourism — and the impact of artificial-intelligence and machine-learning technologies transforming our tri-county region. This is an opportunity for vendors to showcase their cutting-edge technologies.

The summit highlights the strong progress, synergy, and development of Central Florida's multibillion-dollar Modeling, Simulation, and Training (MS&T) industry as a showcase to the state, nation, and beyond. The industry has strong roots in the defense sector and, over time, has diversified into other clusters such as life sciences, healthcare, sports, space, gaming, and other non-defense-related industries.

[**Register Here for the Florida Simulation Summit**](#)

Thank You to our Sponsors of the Florida Simulation Summit



Washington, DC on the Capitol Hill Connection Trip

Our ability to work with Congress and State Representatives are crucial for our MS&T industry. Visits to NCS and Team Orlando provide a way to educate our leaders on the day-to-day issues arising from the procurement of Training, Aids, Devices, Simulators, and Simulations (TADSS).



George Cheros joined the Orlando Economic Partnership's Leadership Fly-in that took place on April 9-10 to advocate for the region's priorities including semiconductors, transportation, and affordable housing. While in the Capitol, George took the opportunity to meet with our Central Florida delegation to keep them up to date on the MS&T and Team Orlando priorities and challenges.

NCS MS&T Community: Talented and Ready to Partner



As a vital component of Team Orlando, NCS collaborates with government entities and academia to furnish the platform, infrastructure, and resources necessary for the growth and advancement of the critical national technology of Modeling and Simulation (M&S).

A central objective of our endeavors is the steadfast support of STEM education and workforce development, spanning from elementary education through graduate school. We firmly believe in nurturing the next generation of innovators and leaders in this field.

We are excited to announce the upcoming Business-to-Business networking event will be held at Full Sail University. This exclusive event will be open to NCS Members Only, providing a unique opportunity for industry professionals to connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas. Stay tuned for more details shortly as we unveil further information about this exciting event.

Full Sail University offers campus and online degree programs that are designed for the world of entertainment media and emerging technologies. Offering associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees, Full Sail's approach is centered on real-world industry experience and creative problem-solving.

Working with Federal, State, and Local Representatives

The leverage of our academic, industry, and government partners leads to the ability to educate our local, state, and federal representatives. This allows us to seize the moment to fuel Central Florida's economy and continue to make Florida one of the most military-friendly states in the union.



One of the essential relationships is working with our state partners on the Governor's Florida Defense Alliance and the Florida Defense Support Task Force. This relationship reaches back to 1999 under then-Governor Jeb Bush. The Florida Defense Support Task Force is governed by section 288.987, Florida Statutes.

The mission of the Task Force is to make recommendations to preserve and protect military installations to support the state's position in research and development related to or arising out of military missions and contracting out and to improve the state's military-friendly environment for servicemembers, military dependents, military retirees, and businesses that bring military and base-related jobs to the state.

The Florida Defense Alliance reports to the Florida Defense Support Task Force (FDSTF) and has played a large part in the protection and growth of the 21 bases throughout the State

Lunch & Learn Events: Thanks to All Those That Attended



Edwards Financial
Services
Insurance • Investments • Retirement

Economic Outlook 2024

NCS hosts Lunch & Learn's throughout the year, providing a platform for our members to share valuable insights. If you have expertise to offer and would like to host a session, please review our guidelines.

As an exemplary instance, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Jason Edwards from Edwards Financial Services for his annual economic outlook presentation for 2024. Each year, Jason graces us with his presence as a distinguished speaker. His profound expertise and unwavering passion for economic news make him a true luminary in his field. With his captivating insights and charismatic delivery, Jason effortlessly inspires and enlightens our MS&T ecosystem, leaving an indelible mark on all fortunate enough to attend

Plug & Play Ribbon Cutting in NeoCity and Launch into the MS&T Ecosystem for Smart Cities

Congratulations to Plug & Play Tech on the launch of their two new locations! The NeoCity facility in Kissimmee, Florida, will bolster support for the semiconductor industry, while the Research Park location in Orlando will focus on Smart Cities within the MS&T sector.



Plug & Play Tech Centers, renowned for hosting the world's largest innovation platform, foster a unique ecosystem connecting change-makers and leading organizations. Their network encompasses 50,000 startups, 500+ world-leading corporations, as well as venture capital firms, universities, and government agencies across various industries. Together with partners, they forge a distinctive ecosystem aimed at nurturing and implementing tomorrow's technologies.

The expansion of Plug & Play into Central Florida from Silicon Valley marks a significant stride in the ongoing growth of the MS&T Ecosystem in Florida. At NCS, we take pride in supporting initiatives that drive company growth, facilitate relocations to Central Florida, and establish new homes for innovative projects or programs.

Within our MS&T community, a hallmark is the mutual mentorship between large and small companies. While competitive in securing contracts, these companies consistently collaborate to advance the entire MS&T ecosystem, demonstrating a collective commitment to its prosperity.

MS&T Evangelists: Sharing Our Community's Message at NCS Membership Night (The Parking Lot Party)



The NCS leadership is consistently energized to engage with and promote the Central Florida MS&T community. It's a passion of ours—whether discussing Team Orlando, the STEM MS&T Pipeline, or the profound digital transformation unfolding across all economic sectors with digital twins.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners who joined us for NCS Membership Night. Connecting with our members and fostering networking opportunities throughout the year is paramount for the MS&T Ecosystem. The common goal of our mission—to save time, money, and lives through simulation—serves as a unifying thread that now extends well beyond DoD, permeating every sector of our economy. Thus, understanding and being aware of everyone's requirements and challenges constitute crucial conversations at every networking event.

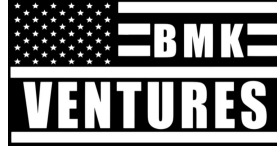
Pic above: January 19th, NCS Membership Night between Partnership II and Partnership III buildings.

Featured Companies -- Getting to Know Our Members



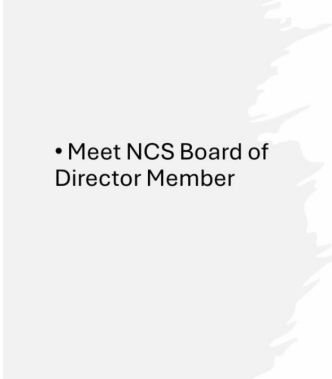


This is not a paid advertisement



This is not a paid advertisement

Featured NCS Board of Director Members -- Get to Know the NCS Board

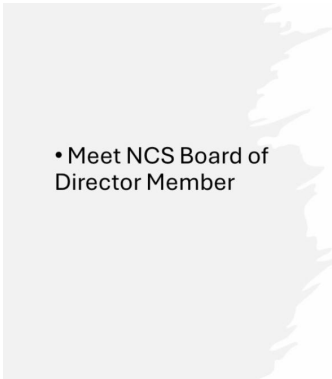


• Meet NCS Board of Director Member

Marni Spence
Clifton Larson Allen
Principal Manufacturing and Distribution



Click on Picture to Learn More About Marni



• Meet NCS Board of Director Member

Eric Ushkowitz
City of Orlando
Representative of the
Honorable Buddy Dyer, Mayor City of Orlando



Click on Picture to Learn More About Eric

There's Room for Your Company at the NCS Big Five Events!

Interested in sponsoring NCS? Explore opportunities to participate in all NCS Big Five Events or select the ones that align best with your preferences and company goals.

----- NCS Big Five Events -----








- Florida Simulation Summit | April 25, 2024
- Business-2-Business Networking Event | September 19, 2024
- NCS Hall Of Fame | October 23, 2024
- NCS Membership Night | January TBD, 2025
- Lou Frey Memorial Golf Tournament | March 31, 2025

Learn More About These Events On Our Website

Sponsorship Packages for the Big Five Events



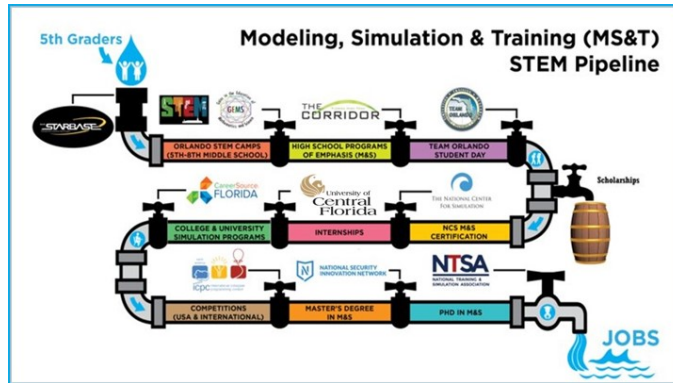
Happy Pollen Season from the NCS STEM Team!

NCS workforce development initiatives are quickly expanding to include more students, parents, educators, and subject matter experts. Our impact has grown every year since our program was started, with this year being our most impactful to date. Since the beginning of 2024, we have introduced over 15,000 students and educators to the wonderful world of MS&T over the course of 300+ hours.

Thank you to all of our supporters who have helped us begin our DoD STARBASE CFL 2.0 programs for after-school learning! Our 2.0 programs currently consist of on-and-off world robotics and remotely operated underwater vehicles, and we are excited to add more as the year progresses.

Our school year programming is beginning to wind down and our lab is kicking into gear for our summer programming! We will be hosting several weeks of summer programming introducing students to careers in MS&T while giving them the opportunity to practice skills needed for the workforce.

To learn more about NCS STEM programs, DoD STARBASE Central Florida, or how you can get involved, please contact [Abbie Easter](#), Business Operations Manager for DoD STARBASE CFL. If you want to join our ecosystem of learning, fill out this [SME Interest Form](#).



Q & A With NCS COO Dr. Neal Finkelstein



Question: For a newly established very small business what advice do you have for seeking our first contract with DoD in Central Florida?

Answer: For a new small business, there's no substitute for face-to-face networking in this ecosystem. Networking isn't just about connecting people; it's about linking opportunities, ideas, and possibilities.

To put things into perspective, consider the US Government budget for 2020, which stood at \$10.3 trillion. In simpler terms, that's 10,300,300 times a million annually. So, there's no shortage of funding opportunities; rather, it's a matter of allocating time efficiently to pursue them.

Thankfully, our system offers numerous ways to get engaged. Here are a few options:

1. Reviewing the numerous Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs) – These topics are rewritten annually, offering a competitive white paper process with potential contracts ranging from thousands to millions of dollars.
2. Exploring grants, cooperative agreements, FAR Clause contracts, and sub-contracts via prime contractors.
3. Participating in Collaborative Technology Alliances or submitting proposals for Conference & Symposia grants.
4. Seeking funding for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) educational outreach.
5. Exploring opportunities through Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) proposals or attending DoD-sponsored events like Industry Days.
6. Providing capabilities briefings to DoD/Government buyers inside their gates or participating in industry demos and events.
7. Joining Other Transaction Authority (OTA) consortia or submitting to challenges and competitions.
8. Getting involved with trade associations like NDIA, NTSA, CFTG, WID, NCS, AAAA, Navy League, and the list goes on and on. You can see more about these organizations [at this link](#).

These avenues provide ample opportunities for small businesses to thrive and grow within the government contracting landscape.

As I always emphasize, NCS operates much like a YMCA: the more you invest your time in our community, the greater the rewards you'll reap. There's undeniable strength in numbers, and we encourage you to actively engage in our mission to ensure your voice is heard in advocating for local, state, and federal policies.

By pooling our resources and uniting our efforts, we become a formidable force multiplier, bolstered by our 360+ member companies. Together, we can more effectively promote, protect, and expand the Modeling and Simulation industry. Please take a deep dive into this [website](#) for opportunities to work closer with NCS.



Become A Member!

JOIN US TODAY

"NCS is dedicated to advancing modeling, simulation, and associated technologies into diverse applications, primarily by expanding membership, harnessing investments in defense programs, and exploring emerging commercial prospects in areas such as education, healthcare, space, energy, transportation, manufacturing, digital media, serious gaming, entertainment, and Digital Twin technology."

I invite you to join NCS as a member and utilize our resources to unlock your company's fullest potential."

George E. Cheros
President/CEO

[Become A Member](#)

NCS Lunch & Learn Opportunities for Member Companies



At NCS, a crucial focus is to offer a platform for member companies to stay informed about current events affecting both business and the community. To facilitate this, NCS organizes Lunch & Learn sessions throughout the year. If you have valuable insights to share with our members and are interested in hosting a

Lunch & Learn, please take a moment to [review our guidelines](#).

Improving Industry-Military Communication: 2024 PALTs

In response to Industry's continued requests to improve communication between Military Contracting Commands in Orlando, the Services continue to host monthly Procurement Administrative Lead Time (PALT) update sessions. These are open to Industry participants intending to pursue contracts and/or business with the U.S. Government. To learn more about PALTs and scheduled sessions, visit [here](#).



National Center For Simulation | UCF Partnership III, 3039 Technology Parkway, Ste. 212- 215
Orlando, FL 32826

[Unsubscribe qcheros@simulationinformation.com](mailto:qcheros@simulationinformation.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by qcheros@simulationinformation.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!