



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SIMULATION

The NCS Nation Newsflash

January 2025

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



Happy New Year to our members, academic partners, Team Orlando, and other government partners! We closed out the year with a tremendously successful 2024 I/ITSEC. Congratulations to our colleagues at NTSA on what I consider to be their most successful conference in the last decade.

Our NCS Membership Night is scheduled for Thursday, January 16. Our team, led by Lana Wallis, promises to provide an outstanding venue, food, drinks, and a few surprises to make this a fun event to celebrate and kick off the New Year! Our extremely successful Lou Frey Memorial Charity Golf Tournament has taken place at the prestigious Interlachen Country Club for the past eleven years. Interlachen is undergoing extensive clubhouse and course renovations, so our 12th Annual Lou Frey Memorial Charity Golf Tournament will be held at the challenging Orange Tree Golf Club on March 24, 2024. Sponsorships are going fast...reach out to us if you would like to join in on this special day that has raised almost \$600,000 for scholarships, STEM, and Civics education.

As we move into 2025, our outstanding Board and team are focused on our mission of "leading the growth of the modeling and simulation industry". Our efforts are concentrated on facilitating MS&T innovation, supporting public policies that promote the growth and development of MS&T, developing and growing the modeling and simulation workforce, and growing our industrial base. The contents of this newsletter provide greater insight into each of these items.

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 of leading the growth of the Modeling and Simulation (M&S) industry. In collaboration with Team Orlando, government entities, and academia, we are committed to promoting, protecting, and growing the MS&T industry and resources to drive the development and expansion of this transformative technology.

Our core objectives focus on supporting our industry, which consistently delivers cutting-edge solutions to Warfighters across all branches of the military. We also emphasize the transfer of these technologies to civilian markets and strongly advocate for advancing STEM education from elementary to postgraduate levels.

With a membership of 370 diverse entities, ranging from large prime contractors to small and startup businesses, NCS promotes collaboration and integration across sectors. Our initiatives bridge defense developers with technology users in fields such as construction, energy, entertainment, healthcare, gaming, space, and transportation. Through these efforts, we aim to foster innovation and maximize the impact of M&S technology across a wide range of industries.

NCS Board of Directors



Launch of the National Spaceport Simulation Center

Coming to the Space Coast following the SPACECOM conference being held at the Orange County Convention Center will be an Open House Breakfast and tour of the National Spaceport Simulation Center located in conjunction with the World Innovation Network on the Space Coast. The breakfast and tour will occur on Friday, January 31, 2025. You can see more of the concept when you visit this [link](#).



I/ITSEC 2024 Accomplished



Thank You to our Booth Partners

Orlando Economic Partnership
UCF-FIEA
UCF-Government

Was a great showing at I/ITSEC once again this year. Thanks to all our Booth Partners and visitors who dropped by this year.

I/ITSEC by the Numbers

- 18,500 Attendees
- 544 Exhibitors
- 2,264 International Attendees
- 55 Countries
- 370 Papers Reviewed
- \$ 175,000 in Scholarships Given Out

NCS Membership Night is scheduled for January 16th, 2025 in Between Partnership II and III Buildings



The National Center for Simulation will hold our Annual Membership Night on January 16, 2025. We invite everyone to network and enjoy food, drinks, and treats from our on-site ice-cream partner.

Membership Night is a free event - register using this [link](#).



KINDLY JOIN US FOR THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION'S ANNUAL

Membership Night

JANUARY 16, 2025

FROM 5:15 PM
THROUGH 7:15 PM

3039 TECHNOLOGY PKWY
ORLANDO, FL 32826

UCF'S INSTITUTE FOR SIMULATION AND TRAINING
WILL BE HOSTING AN OPEN HOUSE FROM 2:45-5:15:
LABS WILL BE OPEN TO TOUR!

*We want to celebrate you! Please register for
Membership Night [here!](#)*



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SIMULATION



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 (FDA) and the newly established Florida Defense Support Commission (FDSC) which has transitioned from the Florida Defense Support Taskforce. This relationship reaches back to 1999 under then-Governor Jeb Bush. The FDSC is governed by section 288.987, Florida Statutes.

The mission of the FDSC 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 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 FDA reports to the FDSC and has significantly contributed to the protection and growth of the 21 bases across Florida over the years. Collaborating with the FDSC and FDA is essential for NCS to continue promoting, protecting, and expanding the MS&T ecosystem.

Annual Capitol Hill Connection Washington, DC Scheduled for February 24-26, 2025

Our ability to collaborate with Congress and State Representatives is critical to ensuring the continued growth and success of the MS&T industry. At NCS, we provide unique opportunities to engage our leaders, educate them on pressing challenges, and advocate for improvements in the procurement of Training Aids, Devices, Simulators, and Simulations (TADSS).

One of our signature events is the NCS Annual Capitol Hill Connection Trip, an exclusive, invitation-only experience. During this visit, MS&T industry leaders meet directly with lawmakers and staff to discuss the latest developments in MS&T and address Team Orlando's most pressing priorities. With support from key partners such as Gray Robinson's Washington, DC office, Capital Communications Consulting, and our NCS Board of Directors, this trip is a pivotal moment to champion innovation, emerging technologies, and digital transformation—critical elements shaping the future of the MS&T Ecosystem.

If you are interested in joining this trip, [contact Ms. Mary Trier](#). Together, we can continue to drive innovation and advocate for policies that support both dual-use technologies for national defense and civilian applications of this national M&S critical technology.



Come See us at SPACECOM

NCS will be in the Exhibits Area at SPACECOM!
Stop by to visit us and meet our booth partners:



Come Join Us for the Annual Economic Forecast Outlook for 2025



Edwards Financial Services
Insurance • Investments • Retirement

We are proud to announce Jason Edwards Managing Partner and Chief Economist with Edwards Financial Services as the guest speaker for the National Center for Simulation (NCS) 2025 Economic Update. Jason Edwards has an optimistic outlook about the growth and markets for 2025. Please register for this FREE limited event scheduled for February 12, 2025, at this [link](#). The first 35 people will be accepted.

Featured Companies -- Getting to Know Our Members



This is not a paid advertisement



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Meet the New NCS Board of Director Members

Robert Abascal

Founder of AVT Simulation

Click the picture to learn more about NCS board Members



Dolly Rairigh Glass

Director of Marketing at Mass Virtual

Click the picture to learn more about NCS board Members



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

Elevate Your Brand: Sponsor NCS Events

Are you interested in sponsoring NCS Events? This is your opportunity to align your brand with innovation, excellence, and a vibrant community. You can explore opportunities to participate in all of the NCS Big Five Events, or you can choose the ones that best fit your preferences and company goals.

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

The collage features five event logos and photos: Florida Simulation Summit, B2B Events (The National Center for Simulation), Lou Frey Memorial (with an American flag graphic), Membership Night (a group of people at a dinner), and Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame (a large hall with many people seated).

- NCS Membership Night | January 16, 2025
- Lou Frey Memorial Golf Tournament | March 24, 2025
- Florida Simulation Summit | May 9, 2025
- Business-2-Business Networking Event | September TBD, 2025
- NCS Hall Of Fame | October TBD, 2024

[Learn More About These Events On Our Website](#)

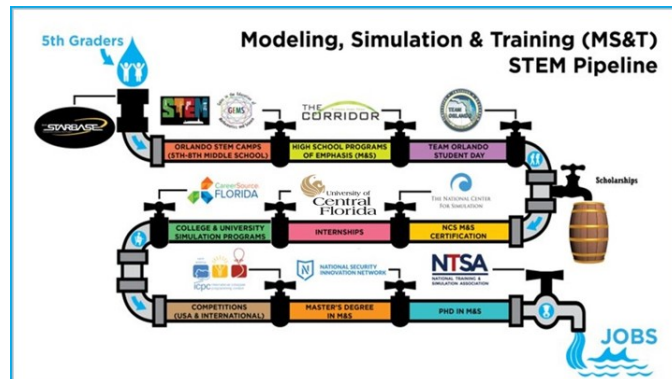
From the STEM Corner: STARBASE 2.0 -Advanced Programs



The NCS team is proud to announce that after piloting 6th-12th STEAM educational

programs, DoD STARBASE Central Florida has been approved for a STARBASE Advanced program! The goal of STARBASE Advanced Programming is to provide continued support for 5th-grade students who have gone through the STARBASE program through innovative after-school programming. Currently, DoD STARBASE Central Florida has three Advanced Programs: First Lego League Robotics, SeaPerch Robotics, and RE-RASSOR. FIRST LEGO League introduces STEAM problem-solving experiences to students through a guided, global robotics program. SeaPerch encourages learning through guiding students in building and controlling a remotely operated underwater vehicle. RE-RASSOR is a new educational program being piloted at DoD STARBASE Central Florida that is designed to develop inexpensive ready-to-use rover systems for student research projects.

With this new approval for a full-fledged advanced program comes the need for more support from our MS&T community. If you are interested in devoting time, money, or resources to any or all of these programs, please email our Director of Workforce Development Lindsey Spalding at lsalding@simulationinformation.com and our Business Operations Manager Abbie Easter at aeaster@simulationinformation.com.



Q & A With NCS COO Dr. Neal Finkelstein



Question: How do we get involved in some of your advocacy trips to DC to help promote the MS&T industry and help with policy challenges?

Answer: To get involved with the NCS advocacy trips, including the upcoming NCS Capitol Hill Connection on February 24-26, 2025, you can follow these steps:

1. Becoming an NCS member is the first step.

Membership provides access to advocacy events, updates, and opportunities to participate in industry-wide initiatives.

2. NCS typically conducts pre-trip briefings to coordinate advocacy strategies and priorities. Please contact NCS to let us know if you're interested in participating and learn about preparatory activities.
3. During the trip, you'll have opportunities to connect with policymakers, industry stakeholders, and other NCS members to build relationships and amplify the collective voice of the MS&T community.
4. Prepare to advocate and collaborate on advocacy goals
5. Registration for the February 2025 is open. Contact NCS to confirm your spot and receive details about the schedule, travel arrangements, and policy topics.

Advocacy trips focus on promoting and protecting the MS&T industry. You can contribute by:

- Sharing your expertise or success stories relevant to MS&T.
- Highlighting workforce development, innovation, or economic impacts tied to the industry.
- Supporting policy positions that align with MS&T long-term objectives.
- Advocacy on Capitol Hill requires being informed and ready to articulate your points effectively.

Reach out to NCS for more details about membership and participation. If you need help preparing or refining your talking points for the trip, let me know—I'd be happy to assist!

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 340+ 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 across diverse applications. We achieve this through expanding our membership, leveraging investments in defense programs, and exploring emerging commercial opportunities in fields 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 tap into our resources to unlock your company's fullest potential."

*George E. Cheros
President/CEO*

Become A Member

Team Orlando News

Team Orlando News brings readers information about the leaders, key projects, collaboration efforts, and breaking news, as well as highlights industry stories and offers opportunities to share additional information and messaging through paid advertisements, advertorials, event calendars, and more. Follow Team Orlando News at this [link](#).



Get Involved with Central Florida Tech Grove for MS&T Innovation!

Central Florida Tech Grove (CFTG) is your gateway to innovation in the MS&T industry. Located in Central Florida Research Park, Tech Grove brings together government, industry, and academia to collaborate on cutting-edge solutions that shape the future of defense, space, healthcare, and beyond.

By engaging with Tech Grove, you'll have access to facilities, networking opportunities, and partnerships that drive technology transfer, research, and workforce development. Whether you're a small business, a defense contractor, or an academic institution, Tech Grove offers the resources and community to accelerate your success in the MS&T sector.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to be part of Central Florida's thriving tech ecosystem. See more about the CFTG at this [link](#).

Improving Industry-Military Communication: 2025 PALTs

In response to the 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. If you would like to learn more about PALTs and scheduled sessions, you can visit [here](#).



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