



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SIMULATION

The NCS Nation Newsflash

July 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 Summer NCS Nation Newsflash!

As you will see in this Newsflash, this quarter has been very active for NCS and the MS&T community. The Florida Simulation Summit was an overwhelming success and brought together the tri-county area (Orange, Seminole, and Osceola) to provide a forum to discuss the transformation of the world of medicine and healthcare. Many thanks to the county leaders and our generous sponsors for your support!

Summers are always exciting around NCS with GEMS STEM Camps that will amaze 300+ middle schoolers. We have a fabulous staff and crew of volunteers and I am constantly amazed by the abilities of our next generation of the workforce!

I hope you find this newsletter to be informative. Please feel free to contact Neal or me with any questions or suggestions you might have. 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 370 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 2024 Board of Directors

NCS Board of Directors



Florida Simulation Summit Mission Accomplished



Thank You to our Sponsors of the Florida Simulation Summit



In collaboration with the National Center for Simulation, the governments of Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties the 2024 Florida Simulation Summit took place at the DoubleTree Hotel at the entrance to Universal Studios on Thursday, April 25, 2024. The summit was held from 7:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., with an ultimate experience tour following the summit. This summit explored 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 provided a dynamic and immersive experience bringing together leaders, innovators, and experts.

The event featured 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 was also an opportunity for vendors to showcase their cutting-edge technologies.

The summit highlighted 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.

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 (M&S) 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](#).

The National Center for Simulation (NCS) has announced its 2024 inductees for the M&S Hall of Fame: From right to left, Carolina Cruz-Neira, Ph.D., the late Navy Capt. Daniel Holsenbeck, Ph.D., and Daryl Holt, COO of EA Sports.



Capitol Hill Demonstration Washington, DC

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).



The picture above depicts the National Training & Simulation Association's 2024 Capitol Hill Modeling and Simulation Expo, on July 20th in the Rayburn Building near the Capitol. During their visit, George Cheros and Neal Finkelstein from the National Center for Simulation (NCS) met with representatives and staff to discuss the latest updates on Modeling, Simulation, and Training (MS&T) and Team Orlando's priorities and challenges. Partners such as GrayRobinson enthusiastically joined NCS at the expo, seizing the opportunity to showcase emerging AR, VR, and military technology, which continue to play an increasingly significant role in the defense and space industries.

NCS MS&T Community: Talented and Ready to Partner



As a vital component of Team Orlando, NCS collaborates with government entities, non-profits, and academia to advance the critical national technology of 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.

Space Florida is a key partner, supporting leading aerospace companies in bringing their innovative ideas to life. In Florida, businesses can secure their place in the burgeoning space economy, or any other aerospace market, with direct access to established infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and an environment conducive to innovation. Space Florida offers unrivaled experience, unique financial tools, and an unbeatable location. As an NCS Board of Directors member and a proud partner of our MS&T ecosystem, Space Florida plays a crucial role in our collaborative efforts. We are also very excited about the re-launch of the AFCEA Space Coast Chapter and encourage those interested to get involved in building one of the best AFCEA Chapters in the nation.

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 FDSTF and FDA is essential for NCS to continue promoting, protecting, and expanding the MS&T ecosystem.

Business-2-Business Event Gearing up for September 19, 2024 at Full-Sail University



Annual Business-2-Business Event

Date: Thursday, September 19, 2024
Location: The Fortress, Full-Sail University, Orlando, Florida
Event Type: Membership Only

Mark your calendars for an exclusive opportunity to connect, network, and engage with fellow members at the Annual Business-2-Business event hosted by NCS. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

Register for our B2B event at this [link](#).

STARCOM Landing at the Space Coast of Florida

The decision has been a year in the making, but the Space Coast will officially become the home of STARCOM, the training headquarters for the Space Force. Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. STARCOM, which stands for Space Training and Readiness Command is one of three Space Force field command units, similar to an Air Force air command. "Great news for Florida! Patrick Space Force Base has received final approval to become the permanent headquarters for STARCOM, bolstering Florida's growing leadership in space," said Senator Macro Rubio.



"The fact that [STARCOM] is going to be headquartered here speaks to the ecosystem in Central Florida, and across the entire state, that supports such an activity," said Space Florida CEO Rob Long. "We've had interest from companies trying to understand exactly what the organizations are and trying to get some background specifically," said Long. He noted that the support systems in Central Florida would likely include the region's already strong modeling and simulation capabilities, such as those found in Orlando.

MS&T Evangelists: Sharing Our Community's Message at the F3F Fest (Hard Rock Cafe, Universal Studios)



The NCS leadership is consistently energized to engage with and promote the Central Florida MS&T community. It's our passion—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 friends at Family-Finance-Fun Festiva (F3F Fest) who invited Neal Finkelstein on a panel with the esteemed group of David Adelson, Rose LeJiste, and Wayne Fogel to discuss our high-tech industry and the diversification of our workforce at the Universal Studios Hard Rock Cafe. The results of the 3-day tech fest will be turned into a documentary about the Orlando tech industry to be shown on Netflix and Hulu. Please be sure to stand by for some exciting announcements about the premiere.

The "F3F Fest" is an inclusive tech summit designed to showcase innovations and foster discussions around various topics including technology, finance, and family-oriented activities. The festival aims to provide a comprehensive experience with events such as AI film contests, fashion shows, comedy acts, and town hall summits focusing on themes of justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion

Connecting with our community 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 awareness of everyone's requirements and challenges constitute crucial conversations at every networking event.

Featured Companies -- Getting to Know Our Members



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



Bill "Roto" Reuter

Founder and President,
R-Squared Solutions

[Click the picture to learn more
about Roto](#)

Brett Ulander

CEO, Bluedrop USA Inc.

[Click the picture to learn more
about Brett](#)



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 chance to align your brand with innovation, excellence, and a thriving community. 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

B2B
EVENTS
THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION

Lou Frey
MEMORIAL

Membership Night

HALL OF FAME

Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame

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 | TBD, 2025
Florida Simulation Summit | TBD, 2025

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

[Sponsorship Packages for
the Big Five Events](#)

From the STEM Corner: STEAM-TASTIC SUMMER FUN!

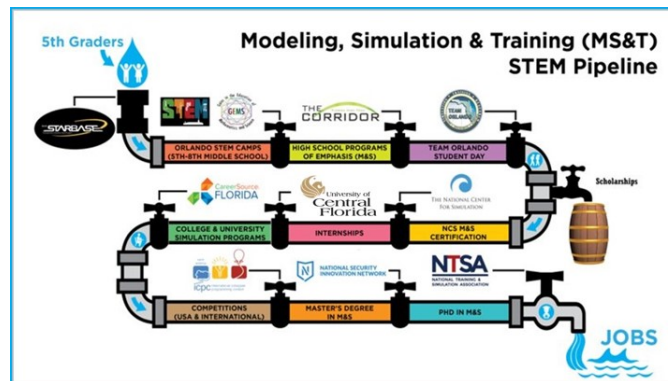


Summer is the Season for Serious Play!

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. This summer the team doubled our STEAM summer camps to include six weeks of dynamic learning from a MS&T perspective. Students engaged in serious play through mixed reality activities that helped them build practical experience in the MS&T workforce focused in medical, cyber, entertainment, and more. Our Central Florida Campers had the opportunity to host International students from Australia and Trinidad & Tobago, spreading the knowledge of our wonderful world of simulation.

Thank you to all of our supporters who have made it possible to buy the summer camp supplies, who have shared their subject matter expertise during camp, and inspired the future workforce! We look forward to seeing you again in the DoD STARBASE CFL Lab as we return to our 5th grade programs, hosting students and their teachers from our Central Florida community.

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: Certainly the strength or backbone of the Central Florida and Team Orlando MS&T community is with the defense sector. What do you see as a key next step for defense with simulation?

Answer: As we look towards 2025 and beyond, several critical areas are at the forefront of technological research and development. Notably, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML)

Integration, Cybersecurity, and Advanced Medical Training and Telehealth are emerging as pivotal fields. Each of these areas will heavily rely on advanced training and simulation to achieve their full potential. As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, many key areas are emerging at the forefront of technological research and development. Let's look at a few examples:

Unmanned Systems: A Growing Presence

At the 2024 Special Operations Forces Industry Conference (SOFIC) in Tampa, Florida, unmanned ground and aerial systems were a ubiquitous presence, encountered every few yards. This trend underscores the strategic necessity for a comprehensive, all-hands-on-deck approach to wargaming and counter-systems strategies.

Unmanned technologies are becoming increasingly pervasive, not only in military contexts but also in civilian life. A simple Google search reveals how other countries are rapidly advancing in this domain, often at relatively low costs. This technology's widespread adoption is evident in everyday scenarios, such as swarming robots used for entertainment at Disney Springs or during July 4th celebrations around the world.

As the use of unmanned systems continues to expand, industry leaders, military strategists, and policymakers must collaborate, share knowledge, and develop robust strategies to stay ahead in this rapidly evolving field. It would be a strategic miscalculation not to adopt an all-hands-on-deck approach that includes data management, lessons learned, wargaming, simulation, and training.

Militarization of Space: A Growing Concern

Alongside the expansion of unmanned systems, the militarization of space assets is a growing concern. Recent developments indicate that targeting space assets critical to military operations is becoming a serious consideration. To address this threat, political and diplomatic efforts must be intensified. Countering these threats will likely involve numerous simulations, many of which will be conducted in classified environments. Therefore, establishing more classified facilities outside our military gates for research, development, and prototyping is essential for fostering innovation and ensuring effective responses.

Data Management: A Holistic Approach

The MS&T industry must turn to innovative solutions from the private sector for collecting, storing, distributing, consuming, and protecting data that is crucial for the defense department. Relying on isolated "best of breed" solutions is no longer sufficient. To be effective, scaling the use of data across every facet of the defense sector, from materials and finished products to training, deployment, and return.

For instance, data generated from training devices should be sent to manufacturers to enhance weapon systems, while acquisition buyers should utilize this training data to refine RFPs. A holistic approach to data management will not only improve all aspects of the defense sector but also accelerate innovation and boost operational efficiency.

Strategic Imperatives: Collaboration and Innovation

We are in a critical time where the word "transformation" might seem overused, but it is evident that we do not always have the luxury of choosing the conflicts we engage in. Therefore, we cannot afford to delay innovation. Collaboration with industry partners will be key for the military, and this trend shows no signs of slowing down. With a trillion-dollar defense budget on the horizon, likely to be signed in the next President's term, the impetus for innovation and collaboration is stronger than ever.

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 370+ 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

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 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](#).



