



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SIMULATION

The NCS Nation Newsflash

October 2023

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!

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer. Thank you to all of our members and sponsors for their tremendous support of the NCS B2B event. It was a sold-out event and we all enjoyed learning about future opportunities to work with Space Force and private industry on the Space Coast. I would like to express my gratitude to board member Dan Ketchen and his committee for planning and executing another outstanding program. In addition, a big thank you to Matt Chesnut from Space Florida for offering keynote remarks and moderating the panel discussion. I hope many of you got a chance to join us live or

watch the M&S Hall of Fame on YouTube Live, which was conducted on October 12 at the Orange County Convention Center.

We are fortunate to have an active and supportive board of directors under the very capable leadership of Terry Kohl. We just completed our election and congratulations are in order to past chair Mary Trier (Capital Communications) and vice chair John Givens (Virtra) for their re-election to another three-year term.

I am pleased to welcome Dr. Haifa Maamar (Full Sail University) to our Board for her first term. We all look forward to working with you!

It is worth noting that we had eight very qualified candidates for three board positions and, as always, I appreciate the deep talent and willingness to serve among our members. Thanks to all of you!

Finally, a big thanks to our workforce development and STARBASE team. They are doing great work educating and inspiring our future workforce and developing programs that will not only be used in Central Florida but all over the country!

I hope you find this newsletter to be informative. Please feel free to contact Neal or me with any questions or 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 was established almost 30 years ago to “lead the growth of the Modeling and Simulation industry” through impactful efforts and accomplishments. Together with Team Orlando, government, and academia, we strive to provide the platform, infrastructure, and resources to develop and expand this important technology. Our key objectives are to support our industry, which provides cutting-edge solutions to the Warfighter from all military branches; enable tech transfer to civilian vertical markets, and strongly support STEM education development from elementary through postgraduate school.

We support 345 members and a \$7 billion industry, with a membership that includes companies ranging from large primes to many small and start-up businesses. Our initiatives focus on integrating defense developers and users of the technology into other verticals such as construction, energy, entertainment, healthcare, gaming, space, and transportation.

Come See Us at I/ITSEC



Once again we will be in Booth 2818 on the I/ITSEC floor. Come visit us and our booth partners:

DoD STARBASE Central Florida
Florida High Tech Corridor (FHTC)
International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE)
National Security Innovation Network (NSIN)
Orlando Economic Partnership
Team Orlando News
University of Central Florida (UCF)

NCS M&S Hall of Fame Inducts Three New Members

Congratulations to our three newest members of the NCS Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame who were inducted on Oct. 12: Bob Ferris, John Illgen, and Khanh Dia Pham, Ph.D.

The 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.

Each year, an induction ceremony is held at the OCCC, South Concourse, the home of the NCS Modeling and Simulation Wall of Fame.



Team Orlando Former Commanders Luncheon



It was an honor hosting these tremendous leaders at our Team Orlando Former Commanders' Luncheon! It has been our great pleasure to work with them throughout the years while they served and still many of them today as they carry on in their retirement supporting the efforts of the modeling, simulation, and training industry. We look forward to continuing this tradition! These are the former commanders who served at the NTC (Baldwin Park), NAWCTSD, STRICOM, PEOSTRI, AFAMS, and PM TRASYS. Together at

lunch, we discussed the MS&T Ecosystem and some of the shared challenges of today.

U.S. Representative Cory Mills & State Representative Susan Plasencia Visits Team Orlando

Our ability to work with Congress and State Representatives is 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).

Representative Susan Plasencia enjoyed visiting our learning lab during the Florida Virtual School Camp and expressed excitement about supporting the future MS&T workforce.

Photo: Representative Cory Mills (l) and Daniel Elliott (r), Chief of Staff for Rep. Susan Plasencia, Plasencia, Lindsey Spalding, NCS Director for STEM Programs, and Abbie Easter, NCS Business Operations Manager.



NCS MS&T Community: Talented and Ready to Partner



NCS, as part of Team Orlando representing industry partners, works with government, and academia, to provide the platform, infrastructure, and resources to develop and expand this national critical technology of M&S.

One key objective is to strongly support STEM education and workforce development from elementary through graduate school.

Pictured here is one of our education and workforce development partners

Career Source of Central Florida who are working on initiatives to support the growth of students in cyber and information technology (IT) careers.

Working with Federal, State, and Local Representatives

Our ability to leverage our academic, industry, and government partners in Central Florida leads to educating our local, state, and federal representatives. As such, our members and partnerships give us the ability to seize the moment to fuel Orlando's economy.

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 all the way back to 1999 under then-Governor Jeb Bush.

Additionally, we host visits to many federal, state, city, and county elected officials and staff. These visits and trips to Tallahassee and Washington D.C. are numerous and the demonstrations aim to continue spreading the message of our MS&T strategic initiatives. Although clichés, putting them together really defines our advocacy efforts:

1. All boats rise with the tide, and
2. There is strength in numbers.

These two statements together is why growing our membership will help NCS continue to promote, protect, and grow the MS&T ecosystem.

Photos (Top L-R) George Cheros, NCS president and CEO, Shannon McAleavy, VP Gov't Affairs-Orlando Economic Partnership, Darren Soto, U.S.

Representative for Florida's 9th district, and Dr. Grace Bochenek, Director School of Modeling, Simulation & Training. (Below) The group visited the Washington, DC office of Representative Cory Mills for a deep dive into the MS&T community.



Business-2-Business Event: Thanks to All Those That Attended

A vertical poster for a B2B event. The top features the word "SPACE" in large, glowing blue letters, with "THE CURRENT FRONTIER" underneath. Below that, it says "Join NCS for a B2B event that's out of this world!" and lists "NETWORKING | PANEL DISCUSSION | SPEAKERS FROM SPACE INDUSTRY". Under "LAUNCH DETAILS", it specifies "Wednesday, Sept. 13, 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at The Celeste Hotel". It also notes "NCS members are FREE" and "Non-members are \$75". A QR code is at the bottom left, and the B2B EVENTS logo is at the bottom right. An astronaut in a space suit is on the right side of the poster.

A graphic for B2B EVENTS. The logo "B2B" is large and dark blue, with "EVENTS" in a smaller box below the "2". Below the logo, it says "BROUGHT TO YOU BY: THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION". Underneath, it says "A special thanks to our sponsors who are" followed by a grid of logos for various sponsors including University of Central Florida, City of Orlando, DE, Orlando Economic Partnership, TAP, Mass Virtual, E3, Intuitive, Federal Reserve Bank of Tampa, Space Florida, ALIGN, Raptor Computing Services LLC, SpEckis, and Seminole County Economic Development. At the bottom, there are logos for TRIDEUM and Capital.

At the B2B event, the audience learned how several in the room have been working hard to merge the Space Coast Space Industry and the DoD MS&T industry to build a powerful new relationship.

Speakers discussed how the \$100B DoD impact across the 21 Florida bases and one of the best-kept secrets in DOD -- that Florida has three four-star generals leading three CINCS in the state: SOF in Tampa, CENTCOM in Tampa and SOUTHCOM in Miami. This leads to about \$11.2 billion in procurement dollars across Central Florida from Tampa to the Space Coast. These are contracts with 62% of those funds right here annually in Central Florida Research Park.

While Florida is unquestionably the "Place for Space," over 17,000 aerospace-related companies call Florida home, contributing \$19 billion in revenues to Florida's economy.

Bringing these two communities together to tackle their important missions is of utmost importance to large and small businesses.

SimVET Ribbon Cutting Lake Nona, FL

Congratulations to SimVET Center on their ribbon cutting on Sept. 14 at Lake Nona, Florida.

Watching companies grow, supporting the relocation of out-of-state companies to Central Florida, or establishing new homes for new company projects or programs is one of the things that we like supporting best at NCS.

Our MS&T community is known best for how large and small companies mentor each other. While competitive in winning contracts, when it comes to growing the entire MS&T community, companies always step up to work together for the good of the entire MS&T ecosystem.



MS&T Evangelists: Sharing Our Community's Message



NCS leadership is always excited to get out and spread the message of the Central Florida MS&T community. It's our passion -- whether talking about Team Orlando, STEM MS&T Pipeline, or the digital transformation occurring across all economic sectors with digital twins. We look forward to facilitating more of those discussions as digital twins move from hype to reality.

We want to thank our partners at the Space Coast Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce for inviting us to speak at the Space Coast Symposium. Central Florida is the epicenter for MS&T and Florida is the Place for Space.

Connecting our communities is of utmost importance in the era of digital transformation. The commonality of our important mission to save time, money, and lives with simulation is a thread between both communities. So letting each community understand and be aware of requirements and challenges is an important conversation.

Featured Companies -- Getting to Know Our Members



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Member Spotlight Series

ASI Displays



www.asidisplays.com

“ASI displays has been a member of NCS for nearly 10 years. Having partnered with many NCS members and being active in the S&T industry, it was a logical step to join NCS. Companies, large, and small, have trusted us to be their trade show an event marketing partner. ASI specializes in providing amazing exhibit and corporate environment, exceptional service, and spectacular events. We are always seeking the opportunity to bring our clients brand(s) to life! NCS has been the perfect partner to expand connections in the S&T industry.

- Ms. Terry Genovese, Business Manager, ASI Displays Worldwide

www.simulationinformation.com



Member Spotlight Series

Janet Owen, NCS Board Member

Vice President for Government Relations and Associate General Counsel, University of Central Florida



“I couldn't be prouder to serve the incredibly successful modeling and simulation ecosystem we are blessed to have in Central Florida. UCF, the military branches and industry come together in historic cooperation to grow this industry so critical to global competitiveness and national security. The NCS board convenes the conversations that make big things happen!”

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

Considering an NCS sponsorship? We offer opportunities to be a part of all NCS Big Five events, or pick and choose which events work best for you, individually, and for your company.

NCS Big Five Events



Membership Night



Business 2 Business Event



Lou Frey Memorial Golf Tournament



Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame



NCS Hall Of Fame | TBD 2024

NCS Membership Night | January 18, 2024

Lou Frey Memorial Golf Tournament | March 25, 2024

Florida Simulation Summit | May TBD, 2024

Business-2-Business Networking Event | September TBD, 2024

Learn More About These
Events On Our Website

Sponsorship Packages for
the Big Five Events

From the STEM Corner:

STARBASE CFL Kicks Off Another Year of Programming!



The NCS STEM Team -- Lindsey Spalding, Lana Wallis, Abbie Easter, Alexandra Morffi, and Chris Voltzke-- continues to foster community inclusion in world-renowned STEM programs to help support the future MS&T workforce.

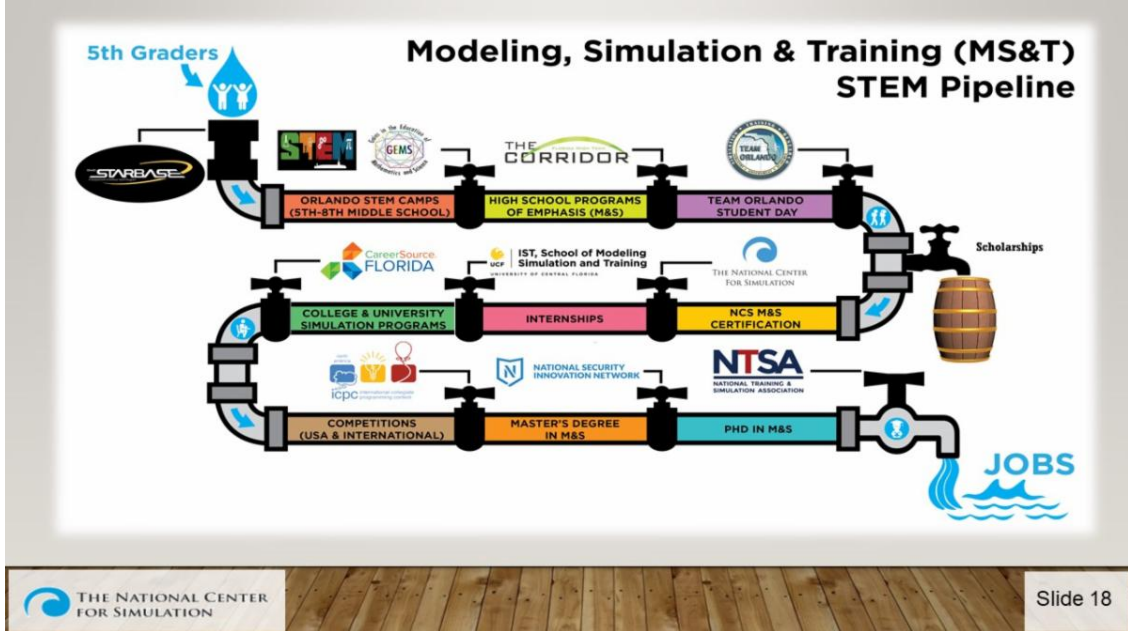
DoD STARBASE Central Florida has launched into the school year and is excited to welcome more 5th grade students and teachers to our lab! The DoD SBCFL program is a 25-hour program that introduces students and their teachers to STEM concepts and skills through a MS&T focus. We welcome DoD SBCFL graduates to continue their MS&T workforce training in our summer programs supporting 6th through 9th grade students. Once students enter high school and college, they have the opportunity to show what they have learned and earn a MS&T certificate to inspire them to join the workforce and apply for internships.

While we enjoy supporting students, we have a passion for training the trainers. Without the educators, we would not be able to reach young professionals across the globe.

Recently we were excited to host six Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teachers from Wales at our MS&T Workforce Lab to discuss inclusivity in workforce development.

We are also looking forward to hosting 50-60 DoD STARBASE teachers at our I/ITSEC teacher training this November. If you are attending I/ITSEC make sure to stop by our ecosySTEM of Learning Booth and participate in our robotics challenge!

To learn more about the NCS STEM program, DoD STARBASE Central Florida, or how you can get involved, please reach out to **Abbie Easter**, Business Operations Manager for DoD STARBASE CFL. If you are interested in becoming a part of our ecosySTEM of learning, fill out this [SME Interest Form](#).



Q & A With NCS COO Dr. Neal Finkelstein



Question: We are challenged by the ability to recruit and retain young personnel at our company. Realizing this may be a challenge across the U.S., is there something we can get involved with as a small company to help address this challenge?

Answer: As you can see by the above picture of our MS&T Pipeline, NCS and Team Orlando have an impressive track record of supporting education and workforce challenges. Although many of us work on local STEM initiatives, some of the global data trends are even more bleak. For example, one recent study shows that in 2025 China will be producing 77,000 PhD graduates annually, a 3-to-1 comparison to the US.

At NCS we work to get industry and government involved in our comprehensive STEAM programs, ranging from 5th graders in our DoD STARBASE Central Florida program, 6th-8th graders in our summer GEMS camp, high school programs, robotics clubs, computer science and cyber competitions, and internships. If we are going to address global STEM workforce retention, we need a team of industry, academia, military, and government leaders to accept the challenge of training young professionals through paid internships and apprenticeships.

Are you interested in becoming a part of our ecosySTEM of learning? Fill out this [SME Interest Form](#) or contact aeaster@simulationinformation.com.

As I always say, NCS is like a YMCA: the more time you invest into our community the more you get out of it. There is strength in numbers, and we want you to be actively involved in this mission to ensure your voice is heard in advocating local, state, and federal policies. By uniting our efforts we are a force multiplier and a show of force with 345+ member companies.

By pooling our resources and uniting our efforts, we can better promote, protect, and grow the MS&T industry. Please take a deep dive into this [website](#) for a complete answer to the opportunities that can link your small company to work closer with NCS.



THE NATIONAL CENTER
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Become A Member! JOIN US TODAY

"NCS has a fundamental objective of extending modeling, simulation, and related technologies into new applications-- principally by growing the membership, leveraging the investments that have been made in defense-related programs, and pursuing new and emerging commercial opportunities, such as education, medical/health care, space, energy, transportation, manufacturing, digital media, serious games, entertainment, and Digital Twin technology.

I encourage you to become a member of NCS and leverage our resources to the betterment of your company's full potential."

*George E. Cheros
President/CEO*

Become A Member

NCS Lunch & Learn Opportunities for Member Companies



An important key focus area at NCS is to provide a platform for member companies to learn about current events that can impact business and the community.

As such, NCS hosts Lunch & Learn throughout the year. If you have something to share with our members and would like to host a Lunch & Learn please [review our guidelines.](#)

Improving Industry-Military Communication: 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](#).



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