



THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SIMULATION

The NCS Nation Newsflash

October 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



This quarter has been incredibly active for NCS and the MS&T community. We're excited to share highlights from recent events, including the success of our Business-2-Business gathering at Full Sail University. A special thank you to all our sponsors and to Dr. Haifa Mamaan and her team for their outstanding support in making the event a success.

As we navigate the challenges of hurricane season, we remain focused on ending the year strong. However, as you work to assess damage and recover from Hurricane Milton, I wanted to share with you some information that may assist your impacted business. Florida Governor DeSantis has activated the

Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program, making \$50 million available for businesses impacted by Hurricane Milton.

As we move into fall, a major highlight will be the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which takes place at the Wall of Fame in the South Concourse of the Orange County Convention Center on October 23, 2024. Be sure to read below to learn more about this year's distinguished inductees.

Fall is always a busy and exciting time for NCS, with many key industry leaders visiting Team Orlando for tours and meetings. We are especially looking forward to seeing everyone at I/ITSEC! Be sure to visit us at Booth 1161, where we'll be joined by our partners: the Orlando Economic Partnership, the University of Central Florida Government and Community Relations, the School of Modeling, Simulation, and Training (SMST), the Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA), Florida High Tech Corridor (FHTC), Team Orlando News, the National Security Innovation Network (NSIN), and DoD STARBASE.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it informative. As always, feel free to reach out to Neal or me with any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your 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 2024 Board of Directors

NCS Board of Directors



Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program

Eligible small businesses may apply for loans of up to \$50,000 through the program. Loans of up to \$100,000 are available for agriculture and aquaculture small businesses, and loans of up to \$150,000 are available for citrus and cattle operations. Loans approved through the Emergency Bridge Loan Program are intended to “bridge the gap” between the time a disaster impacts a business and when a business has secured longer-term recovery funding, such as federally or commercially available loans, insurance claims, or other resources.

The program provides short-term, zero-interest loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury or physical damage due to Hurricane Milton. Interested applicants can apply now through **December 4, 2024**, or until all available funds are expended. For more information visit this [link](#).

Business-2 Business Accomplished



Thank You to our Sponsors of the Florida Simulation Summit

Professionals of the modeling, simulation and training (MS&T) community gathered for the National Center for Simulation’s (NCS) Annual Business-2-Business Event for a night of socializing and networking at Full Sail University, Sept. 19.

The event's agenda also included a panel discussion featuring senior leaders representing Team Orlando's military organizations, who addressed significant trends in the MS&T space.

See more about the event at this [link](#).

NCS Modeling & Simulation Hall of Fame is Scheduled for October 23, 2024, at the Wall of Fame, Orange County Convention Center

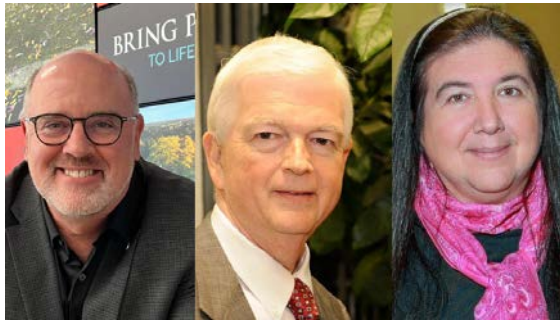


The National Center for Simulation Modeling & Simulation (M&S) Hall of Fame began in 2014 in partnership with the Orange County Government, including the Office of the Mayor of Orange County and the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC). The M&S Hall of Fame honors and recognizes the accomplishments 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 at this

[link](#).

NCS will induct three new 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. Please see more about the M&S Hall of Fame at this [link](#).



Capitol Hill Connection Washington, DC

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, defense 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 GrayRobinson, 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 defense and space industries.

Join us in this vital mission to strengthen the MS&T industry and ensure our voice is heard. Together, we can continue to drive innovation and advocate for policies that support both national defense and the civilian applications of this national critical technology.

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.

Come See Us at I/ITSEC



We'll be at Booth 1161 on the I/ITSEC floor!
Stop by to visit us and meet our booth partners:

- Orlando Economic Partnership (OEP)
- UCF Government & Communications
- UCF School of Modeling, Simulation, and Training (SMST)
- UCF Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA)
- DoD STARBASE Central Florida
- Florida High Tech Corridor (FHTC)
- National Security Innovation Network (NSIN)
- Team Orlando News

Space Florida and STARCOM with Central Florida's MS&T Industry

As the space industry continues to evolve, Central Florida's MS&T community is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in its growth. The collaboration between Space Florida, STARCOM (U.S. Space Force's Space Training and Readiness Command), and our region's thriving MS&T industry is opening new doors for innovation and development. By integrating expertise in training, simulation, and digital technologies with the needs of the rapidly expanding space sector, we are fostering cutting-edge solutions to prepare and equip the next generation of space professionals.



This merger creates new opportunities for technology transfer, workforce development, and cross-industry collaboration, solidifying Central Florida as a hub for space training and readiness. Together, we can shape the future of space exploration, defense, and commercial applications, ensuring that our region remains at the forefront of this critical industry.

Former Team Orlando Commander Annual Luncheon



NCS hosted its annual Former Commanders' Luncheon on Aug. 22 at the Orlando Country Club, bringing together retired leaders from Team Orlando's four military services. The event offered a unique opportunity for these distinguished leaders to reconnect, discuss current trends impacting the MS&T industry, and explore ways to continue supporting its growth and development. Special thanks to Team Orlando News for covering the event and to Waymon Armstrong of Engineering Computer Sciences (ECS) for assisting with logistics.

Photo caption(LtoR): Neal Finkelstein; Andy Mohler; Steve Nakagawa; James Blake; David Smith; Mike Soan; William Cole; George Cheros; Robert Epstein; Tim Hill; Dan Covelli; Pete Vangjel; and Steve Seay

Featured Companies -- Getting to Know Our Members



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

John Givens

CEO of VirTra

Click the picture to learn more
about NCS board Members



Janet Spurill

Executive VP at Aptima, Inc.

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 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 -----

NCS Hall Of Fame | October 23, 2024

NCS Membership Night | January 16, 2025

Lou Frey Memorial Golf Tournament | March 31, 2025

Florida Simulation Summit | May TBD, 2025

Business-2-Business Networking Event | September TBD, 2025

Learn More About These
Events On Our Website

Sponsorship Packages for
the Big Five Events

From the STEM Corner: Engaging International Students and
Educators through DoD STARBASE CFL!



Fall is the season for engaging our local, national, and international students as they start back at school!

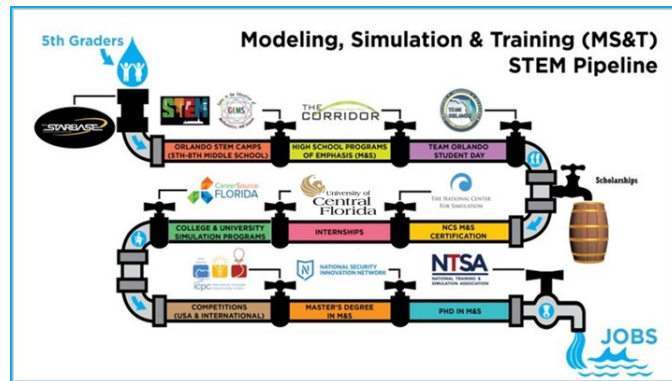
DoD STARBASE Central Florida is excited to welcome new schools to the learning lab for hands-on, brains-on modeling, simulation, and training learning modules. Schools in Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties that want to provide their student and teachers with workforce development opportunities have shown leadership in funding transportation so their teachers and students can participate in the DoD SBCFL program.

In addition to our local school districts, our team has had the pleasure of hosting international high school students and educators. In collaboration with the Florida Space Institute, Exolith Lab, the Michaelis Foundation, the METIL Lab, and the Toni Jennings Institute, NCS hosted students and educators from Australia, Brazil, and Wales. We want to thank all of our industry and academic partners who helped provide these students and educators with high-level workforce development experiences.

The NCS First LEGO League robotics team has grown to support two competitive teams that are off to a great start to the season! The theme of this season is "Submerged" with a focus on underwater robotics; if you are a Subject Matter Interested in speaking to or supporting our FLL teams, please reach out to Coach Chris Voltzke at cvoltzke@simulationinformation.com. The team meets weekly on Thursdays from 4-6 p.m.

Looking ahead, the NCS team is planning for the annual I/ITSEC conference, where we will be hosting educators from around the nation for three days of STEAM education through the lens of modeling, simulation, and training workforce development. Educators will be able to leave I/ITSEC with impactful teaching practices and content knowledge to help prepare the future 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 years now we have heard you talk about the important role that NCS plays in STEM and workforce development. What is the value that this brings to your members?

Answer: NCS fosters education and workforce development initiatives to keep pace with MS&T industry demands. Perhaps no image defines NCS STEM initiatives more than the above STEM

Pipeline. A pipeline of qualified personnel sustains and grows the MS&T industry.

NCS has access to a unique set of capabilities to assist in addressing the STEM challenge. We are committed to promoting and leading STEM initiatives for the MS&T community, bringing our resources, expertise, and services to NCS and its members to strengthen the pipeline for the future MS&T workforce.

Our purpose is to have STEM PRIDE. PRIDE is an acronym created by the NCS Workforce Development and Education Committee which works alongside Team Orlando and its NCS Members. PRIDE stands for:

- Purpose to strengthen our STEM education and outreach portfolio.
- Retain world-class STEM talent.
- Inspire students, parents, and teachers in STEM discovery and innovation.
- Develop a world-class STEM pool and pipeline.
- Excite STEM future talent with programs that have purpose and inspire.

By doing this we are building on the legacy of the National Defense Education Act (NDEA), signed into law on September 2, 1958, by President Dwight Eisenhower as a result of Russia taking the lead in space with Sputnik. This Act authorized DoD to increase the flow of talent into science and engineering and fund enrollment in higher education. More recently the President of the United States and members of Congress called for an all-hands-on-deck approach to fueling a STEM literate pool prepared to compete for existing and emerging jobs.

This is our number one challenge. For example, in the DoD civilian workforce, the largest portion of the technical workforce falls within the range of 45 to 63 years old. Two in five employees in this workforce are eligible to retire. By 2030, more than 50 percent of the workforce will be eligible for retirement. When we talk about a modernized force in 2035 and 2045, we can't get there without inspiring a generation to be scientists and engineers in military labs, our industrial base, or universities.

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

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Team Orlando News

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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: 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](#).



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