



March 18, 2025

Rep. Dan Webster  
2184 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster:

The National Center for Simulation (NCS) is proposing strategic investments in military and small businesses to enhance simulation and training through rapid technological development. The Modeling and Simulation Small Business Accelerator Community Project Funding (CPF) proposal outlines an initiative led by the NCS, focused on improving the modeling, simulation, and training (MS&T) ecosystem in Florida. By leveraging DoD Challenges, this effort aims to transform ideas from small businesses into production while simplifying the acquisition process and reducing paperwork. This proposal addresses the challenges faced by small businesses in engaging with the Department of Defense and accessing federal contracting opportunities, either as prime contractors or collaborators.

A report from Fed News Network in May 2023 highlighted changes in the environment for small businesses navigating federal contracting. The number of small companies entering federal contracts for the first time has dropped by approximately 60%, with new entrants seeing a decline of about 80% over the past 15 years. These statistics indicate a need for measures to revive and energize the participation of small businesses in federal contracting initiatives.

This proposal also has the potential to strengthen the STEM pipeline and boost regional economic development. The initiative aims to develop high-tech solutions that will facilitate education and workforce development challenges, enhancing economic growth across Florida. It particularly focuses on increasing awareness among students, teachers, and parents about digital transformation tools in Florida.

In conclusion, I express my support and endorsement for this initiative benefiting small businesses and military MS&T services in Florida. The focus on STEM and the MS&T industry holds strategic value, and it is hoped that the CPF concept will prosper. It emphasizes the need for partnerships and collaboration among government entities, industry stakeholders, and academic institutions to foster innovation and growth in the region.

I am grateful for the opportunity to endorse this project, as the proposal recognizes the significant role played by Florida's MS&T sector in advancing military objectives and promoting economic prosperity within the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. A. Sohl".

Paul A. Sohl, Rear Adm. USN (ret)  
CEO, Florida High Tech Corridor

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Orlando, FL 32801

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**Institute for Simulation & Training**

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Grace Bochenek, Ph.D.

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March 19, 2025

Rep. Dan Webster

2184 Rayburn HOB

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster,

The National Center for Simulation (NCS) is proposing strategic investments in military and small businesses to accelerate the development of simulation and training technologies. The Modeling and Simulation Small Business Accelerator Community Project Funding (CPF) proposal outlines an initiative led by the NCS to enhance the modeling, simulation, and training (MS&T) ecosystem in Florida. By leveraging Department of Defense (DoD) challenges, this effort seeks to transform innovative ideas from small businesses into production while streamlining the acquisition process and reducing paperwork. The proposal explicitly addresses the obstacles micro-businesses face in engaging with the DoD and accessing federal contracting opportunities, whether as prime contractors or through collaboration.

As a long-time collaborator with the NCS, including its DOD Starbase Youth Program located in our Institute, I have no hesitation in supporting these efforts. The NCS consistently helps us facilitate innovation, expand modeling and simulation uses, and grow the field's workforce and industrial base.

I am grateful for the opportunity to endorse this project, which acknowledges the critical role of Florida's MS&T sector in advancing military goals and promoting economic prosperity within the state. It also highlights the importance of building partnerships and encouraging collaboration

among government entities, industry stakeholders, and academic institutions to foster innovation and growth in the region.

A report from Fed News Network in May 2023 pointed out significant changes in the landscape for small businesses navigating federal contracting. The number of small companies entering federal contracts for the first time has dropped by approximately 60%, with new entrants declining by about 80% over the past 15 years. These statistics underscore the urgent need for measures to revitalize and energize the participation of small businesses in federal contracting initiatives.

This proposal also has the potential to strengthen the STEM pipeline and contribute to regional economic development. The initiative aims to focus on high-tech solutions that address educational and workforce development challenges while enhancing economic growth throughout Florida. In particular, it seeks to raise awareness among students, teachers, and parents about digital transformation tools available in the state.

In conclusion, I would like to express my strong support for this initiative, which will benefit small businesses and military MS&T services in Florida. The emphasis on STEM and the MS&T industry holds significant strategic value, and I hope the CPF concept will be successful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Grace Bochenek", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Grace Bochenek, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Pegasus Research Institute

Institute of Simulation and Training

Associate Vice President, Applied Research, University of Central Florida

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
2184 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Congressman Webster:

The National Center for Simulation is proposing strategic investments in military and small businesses to enhance simulation and training rapid technological development. The Modeling and Simulation Small Business Accelerator Community Project Funding (CPF) proposal outlines an initiative led by the NCS, focused on improving the modeling, simulation, and training (MS&T) ecosystem in Florida. By leveraging DoD Challenges, this effort can transform ideas into production from small businesses while simplifying the acquisition process and reducing the paperwork. This proposal aims to tackle the challenges faced by small micro-businesses in engaging with the Department of Defense and accessing federal contracting opportunities, either as prime contractors or in collaboration with them.



On behalf of the Orlando Economic Partnership, I am submitting this letter to endorse this project as the proposal recognizes the significant role played by Florida's MS&T sector in advancing military objectives and promoting economic prosperity within the state. It emphasizes the need to build partnerships and encourage collaboration among government entities, industry stakeholders, and academic institutions to foster innovation and growth in the region.



This proposal also has the potential to strengthen the STEM pipeline to boost regional economic development. The initiative aims to work on high-tech solutions that will also facilitate education and workforce development challenges and enhance economic growth across Florida, particularly by increasing awareness among students, teachers, and parents about digital transformation tools in Florida.

In conclusion, this letter is to express the Orlando Economic Partnership's support and endorsement for this initiative benefiting small businesses and military MS&T services in Florida. The focus on STEM and the MS&T industry holds strategic value, and it is hoped that the CPF concept will prosper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob O'Malley", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bob O'Malley  
SVP, Government Affairs



Central Florida Tech Grove: A Team Orlando Collaboration  
12809 Science Drive, Orlando, FL 32826 [www.centralfloridatechgrove.org](http://www.centralfloridatechgrove.org)  
TechGrove@ucf.edu

## INNOVATE – COLLABORATE – ACCELERATE

20 March 2025

Rep. Dan Webster  
2184 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Webster:

The National Center for Simulation is proposing strategic investments in military and small businesses to enhance simulation and training rapid technological development. The Modeling and Simulation Small Business Accelerator Community Project Funding (CPF) proposal outlines an initiative led by the NCS focused on improving Florida's modeling, simulation, and training (MS&T) ecosystem. By leveraging DoD Challenges, this effort can transform ideas into production from small businesses while simplifying the acquisition process and reducing the paperwork. This proposal aims to tackle the challenges small micro-businesses face in engaging with the Department of Defense and accessing federal contracting opportunities, either as prime contractors or in collaboration.

I am grateful for the opportunity to endorse this project. The proposal recognizes the significant role of Florida's MS&T sector in advancing military objectives and promoting economic prosperity within the state. It emphasizes the need to build partnerships and encourage collaboration among government entities, industry stakeholders, and academic institutions to foster regional innovation and growth.

A report from Fed News Network in May 2023 highlighted changes in the environment for small businesses navigating federal contracting. The number of small companies entering federal contracts for the first time has dropped by approximately 60%, with new entrants declining about 80% over the past 15 years. These statistics indicate a need for measures to revive and energize the participation of small businesses in federal contracting initiatives.

This proposal also has the potential to strengthen the STEM pipeline to boost regional economic development. The initiative aims to work on high-tech solutions that will also facilitate education and workforce development challenges and enhance economic growth across Florida, particularly by increasing awareness among students, teachers, and parents about digital transformation tools in Florida.

In conclusion, this letter is to express my support and endorsement for this initiative benefiting small businesses and military MS&T services in Florida. The focus on STEM and the MS&T industry holds strategic value, and it is hoped that the CPF concept will prosper.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Logue, Director  
Carolann.dykeslogue@ucf.edu

**Enabling collaborations and creative problem solving to accelerate fielding innovative simulation and training solutions for our nation's military.**



Research Foundation  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA





United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

## *House of Representatives*

### RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SIMULATION

(Extension of Remarks – March 24, 2014)

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HON. DANIEL WEBSTER  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2014

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**Mr. Webster.** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the National Center for Simulation (NCS), headquartered in Orlando, Florida, on the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 1993, NCS's mission has been to "serve as the nation's focal point and as a catalyst for the development, understanding, and advancement of simulation and related technologies; to improve defense readiness and facilitate space exploration; to support education and training initiatives; and to extend useful applications of simulation."

NCS is a consortium that facilitates collaboration and networking among its local, national and international membership. Home to acquisition commands for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, the University of Central Florida, the Air Force Agency for Modeling Simulation and over 150 industry companies, Orlando is a focal point for cooperative and collaborative efforts across diverse fields.

NCS fosters relationships between these varied communities to help disperse resources and innovations in modeling, simulation and training to those industries which may benefit from the knowledge. These relationships result in new understandings in fields such as health care, transportation, entertainment or even military readiness. In addition, their advancements support our workforce and business development, as well as growth in education.

As membership continues to grow and strengthen bonds across diverse communities, I would like to congratulate NCS on its successes and advancements thus far, and trust NCS will continue to provide us with the latest ideas and efforts in simulation, modeling and training.