

**VIRGINIA NETWORK FEBRUARY 14 MEETING SUMMARY
VIRGINIA MODELING, ANALYSIS AND SIMULATION CENTER
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY**

The meeting began with a background overview of the Federal Lab Consortium, its mandate, regional structure, and the jurisdictions making up the Mid-Atlantic Region: Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, West Virginia. The background overview also noted the commitment of the Mid-Atlantic Region to engage economic development organizations around the region including southern Virginia, through establishment of closer ties between federal research labs, academia, economic development organizations and the private sector.

It was also noted as part of this regional network initiative, a seminar was held at Colonial Williamsburg in April 2007. The seminar included an open forum to discuss issues, challenges and opportunities involving federal labs and organizations in southern Virginia.

Following the overview, a wide-ranging discussion took place to follow up on the seminar from last April and to explore specific near and longer-term initiatives that could be developed and implemented. These are some of the points highlighted during the discussion, which can form the basis of specific actions by members of the Virginia network group:

Events

Event Participation

The FLC was invited to participate in, and support marketing efforts for, technology and economic development events taking place in Virginia. Specific events coming up include:

- Research Expo on April 9 at the Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center, Old Dominion University (Zohir Handy as point of contact)
- Joint Forces Command/NDIA Industry Forum, June 17-19, Virginia Beach (John Carman, Michael Lynk, Mike Sottung, Damien Walsh as points of contact)

Additional details are needed regarding these events, to help disseminate expo and forum details to potential participants.

It was agreed to collaborate on the development of a six month list of events from academia, economic development organizations, industry, and federal labs that would be of mutual interest. The FLC Mid-Atlantic Region will be happy to place such events on our web site, and we look forward to the opportunity to highlight FLC events on other web sites as well.

Event Planning

The FLC was also invited to participate in planning efforts for specific events, such as the technology showcase taking place in November at Tyson's Corner.

We look forward to such opportunities and will be back in touch with Zohir Handy regarding planning efforts in support of this event. We encourage other opportunities for cross-organization planning that will foster shared investment in common technology and economic development goals.

From a longer range perspective, it was noted that there can be new initiatives linking the FLC, academia, economic development, and industry while existing seminars, workshops, conferences, etc. can foster greater involvement by other organizations.

Contacts/Information Matrix

There was general consensus that more can be done to effectively communicate organization points of contact and technology descriptions to potential partners. This desire for an improved information matrix had several elements:

- **University Associations:** It was noted there are 4 university associations that may be of interest to the FLC and other organizations. Two of them are ALCOVE and VBED. It was agreed that all four university association names, e-mail addresses, and individual points of contact will be forwarded to Ms. Lorraine Flanders and John Emond to help disseminate to others.
- **Economic Development Organizations:** Virginia is fortunate in having a number of proactive economic development organizations throughout the Commonwealth, with organizations clustered in regions such as Hampton Roads.
- **Federal Research Labs:** The FLC can serve as a repository of information regarding federal research labs in Virginia, and can also highlight key technology areas that these labs are either seeking to help advance their specific agency mission, or else have as resources that may be made available through technology transfer or partnership development.
- **Industry Associations and Technology Councils:** Industry associations and technology councils are effective channels of communication linking the needs, interests and capabilities of individual companies, to compatible needs and interests of other organizations.
- **Facilities/Capabilities:** The network group agreed that it would be very helpful to have a compilation of facilities/capabilities in both the private and public technology sectors, to help foster collaboration. Capabilities were noted to also include an organization's technical capabilities in addition to unique equipment or infrastructure. It was also noted the information needs to be vetted for feasibility and accuracy; outdated information or facility descriptions of capabilities that are technically

relevant but not available for use by outside entities, is of little use and may in fact prompt more frustration than benefit.

There is a substantial opportunity to develop cross-organization information that is user friendly and will help foster greater collaboration among Virginia organizations. As the information is fluid, the matrix once developed (and much of this already exists in various databases) will need to be sustained to ensure information is accurate and relevant.

Focused Forums

There have already been examples of focused forums that have taken part in the Hampton Roads area, such as the Sensors World conference held in Colonial Williamsburg in December, 2007; industry presentations sponsored by Joint Forces Command; and technology networking events in specific technology areas at NASA Langley Research Center. This network planning team can help support broader participation in these focused forum events and also support new events that will highlight capability needs and available resources.

Education Support

There are a number of avenues for collaboration:

- **Working with universities** to help foster closer links between academia and technology development needs of industry and government. The belief expressed is such collaboration will enrich student experiences with real world challenges that will help make them more marketable on graduation, and support organizations in need of a well trained next generation of professionals. Closer interaction between universities and other organizations such as federal labs may also help labs provide direction on pressing technology needs that universities may be able to contribute towards technology solutions. During the discussion, it was noted academic partners should be treated comparable to industry partners to help shape mutual direction.
- **Professional development** in support of cross-agency training and certification. FLC has as one of its key mandates the support of technology transfer training within federal labs. Involvement of other organizations in this effort may aid FLC in its efforts. Other groups have voiced a similar interest in fostering technology development and tech transfer expertise among federal lab professionals, including a heightened awareness of issues impacting the business community in the area of technology transfer. It was suggested to engage education organizations in agencies to help foster technology transfer expertise. This includes orientation days and mentor programs for new workers.
- **Workforce Development:** Training initiatives can support workforce development in general, whether private or public sector technology development positions. Collaboration on training material can enrich workforce development.

- **Project “Lead the Way”** was cited as a specific education initiative but the details were not captured in the meeting notes.

Virginia Economic Development Study/Catalyzing Virginia’s Economy

Jerry Giles provided a brief summary of a report due to be released shortly, which looked at Virginia’s technology and innovation resources:

- Concentration of technology resources across the Commonwealth
- Analysis of the supply side of Virginia resources: federal labs, universities, the private sector, as measured against similar resources of other states.
- “Look over the horizon” future direction; what areas of technology will create jobs. 5 tracks identified such as biotechnology
- Review of best models for technology and economic development, in the U.S by state and region as well as abroad
- What is the problem, what is the solution, what should the stakeholders do?

Jerry Giles indicated he would look into if any members of the network meeting might be able to attend the report briefing, as well as the level of information that might be releasable to the general public, perhaps the Executive Summary.

General Discussions

University/federal lab collaboration issues

During the general discussion, an issue was raised regarding effective collaboration between federal labs and universities; a concern was voiced that there had not been successful CRADA partnerships between a particular lab and potential university partners. In response, it was noted that this topic of federal lab/university partnerships, what is working, what is not, could be one of the topics for an AUTM meeting, given involvement in AUTM by some of the network members present at the meeting.

This issue regarding collaboration led to another general discussion regarding the assessment of a “Collaboration Model” built on best practices and examples of successful collaboration strategies involving federal labs, academia, industry, and even international aspects given the global marketplace and global approach to technology development. One example was given: a “warfighter challenge” in support of soldiers in extreme environments may also have a bearing on other objectives such as search and rescue/GPS identification, first responders, telemedicine, etc.

Funding constraints

It was duly noted during the meeting that resources are tight in all sectors and not likely to greatly improve, at least not in the near term. At the same time, even if joint funding initiatives may be quite limited (though some funds may be available and indeed leveraged by contributions of others), there are also opportunities to engage in collaboration using in-kind resources.

The meeting concluded with a general agreement to explore near-term opportunities to share information regarding upcoming events; to explore greater participation and collaboration in event planning; and to work on improving the awareness of organization information that is largely out there already and may be made more effective in ways of communication.

It was also agreed to re-group in 3 or 4 months to assess progress in near term goals, and perhaps by that time to also have a chance to attend a briefing or read a released synopsis of the Virginia Economic Development report.

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