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Introduction

These are the proceedings of the eighteenth Open Architecture/Open Business Model Net-Centric Systems and Defense Transformation conference. The papers presented at the conference strongly reflected the inexorable trend towards open architecture/open business model acquisition patterns to provide the government better buying power (BBP).

The conference included the following joint sessions:

1. Open Architecture (OA)/Open Business Model (OBM) Systems, held jointly with the Unmanned Systems Technology conference. This session included keynote presentations from Dr. Bobby Junker (Office of Naval Research), Mr. Carlo Zaffanella (General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems), and Mr. Howard Reichel (In-Depth Engineering Corporation). The keynote session was followed by a panel discussion including these three gentlemen and Mr. Nickolas Guertin (U.S. Navy).
2. Networking for Netcentric Warfare, held jointly with the Ground/Air Multisensor Interoperability, Integration, and Networking for Persistent ISR conference.

The conference also included invited papers by Mr. Nickolas Guertin (U.S. Navy), Mr. Thomas Conway (PM/NV-RSTA, U.S. Army), Mr. Parag Batavia (Neya Systems LLC), Dr. William Chappell (DARPA), Mr. Tim Pavlick (IBM Corporation) and Dr. Megan Cramer (U.S. Navy PEO LCS).

Looking ahead, we expect net-centric systems to increasingly focus on open architectures (OA) and open business models (OBM). Such OA/OBM systems seek to mimic the successful PC industry and hold the promise to dramatically reduce the acquisition and life cycle costs of military systems, and tremendously accelerate the rate of technology refresh in military systems.

It is gratifying to see the high level of audience interest in this conference. Particularly gratifying is the fact that this conference has resulted in the "spin-off" of several new conferences at SPIE DSS. My sincere gratitude to the distinguished invited speakers, authors, attendees, and my associates on the program committee for another successful conference.

Raja Suresh