

ASTRA Meeting April 9, 2009

Jack Moore discussed the upcoming Homeland Security conference and the need for a cyber/ASTRA savvy member to be the presenter at the meeting. The group nominated Jack Moore for that role.

John Bradham provided an overview of SCRA and highlighted activities by ATI, ARDI and ISG. A Federal Center of Excellence is associated with each entity. Currently SCRA has Innovations centers in Columbia, Charleston and Anderson counties.

Bruce Thackston discussed the need for the following items for ASTRA:

- Marketing plan and schedule
- Marketing and selling statements; a slick brochure needs to be created
- Organization name relative to ASTRA and cyber
- Organizational structure to include President, Vice President etc.
- Milestones with POAM that includes what, how and when
- Community Analysis that shows who we are targeting, what our economic indicators are. The group suggested working with Mary Graham for this information
- Presentation to CDCA and to the quarterly symposium; Jack Moore noted that ASTRA will have an article in the next CDCA magazine
- Contact with Engineering cluster and Lee Stogner to form synergies
- One day symposium on cyber to get message out and generate revenue for items ASTRA needs like marketing pieces etc.

Dan Neeson suggested gathering a member from each focus group to adhere each of the focus groups to the mission of the other to ensure efficiency for ASTRA and avoid duplication of efforts. The meeting will take place at Modus 21 on May 1st.

Beth Heatley is developing the website and will gather more in-depth information from each of the focus groups.

Rene Castro reviewed the progress that his focus group has made on developing world class, fully connected IA and cyber security laboratories and facilities.

Supporting Objective #1: Support stand-up of SSC-LANT Cyber Innovation Center

Progress since last meeting: Distributed IO Centric Solutions White Paper/Funding Request to select ASTRA members, encouraging them to express support for this proposal with local Congressional leaders.

Supporting Objective #2: Conduct survey/assessment of local industry, non-profit, academic, and other IA/CS lab facilities in the region

Progress since last meeting:

- (a) Identified survey targets
- (b) developed initial survey questions (attached; comments are requested)

Supporting Objective #3: Investigate and support potential university research facility focused on Cyber Security

Progress since last meeting:

(a) University of South Carolina Cybersecurity-focused professors Dr. Farkas and Dr. Buell were contacted and expressed an interest to become involved. Follow-on visit to view their existing labs and to detail a plan forward for their involvement is being scheduled.

(b) Still looking for appropriate points of contact for Clemson University. Mr. Mike Kutch and Dr. Charles Watt will be contacted for their input on specific faculty members at Clemson with relevant interests

Supporting Objective #4: Develop plan to influence connectivity/collaboration among facilities to realize regional Center of Excellence Construct

Progress since last meeting: No activity yet on this objective.

Rene Castro also asked that the group review the survey questions and make any suggestions or changes so that it can be distributed to a wider network.

Dan Magers was added to this focus group.

Jim Bryant presented the goals of the Learning, Training and Education Focus Group:

- Identify regional IA training/educational opportunities and partners.
- Identify regional federal, state, and commercial stakeholders' IA/Cyber Security education/training needs.
- Provide captured IA training/educational data via an information repository.
- Work with Lowcountry Graduate Center for regional and National training/educational delivery to the local workforce of today and attract the workforce of tomorrow.
- Research regional IA training/educational opportunities/partners through networking of complementary communities.

Draft Plan and POAM

- Purpose of the plan is to outline a potential education and training strategy for the Information Assurance and Cyber Security Centers of Excellence.
 - The strategic goal that this purpose accomplishes for ASTRA and the LCCSC is to “establish and sustain training and educational programs for cyber security work force”.
- POA & M establishes time frame and asks resources to work toward meeting this purpose and goal.

To complete the plan and POAM the focus group will also:

- Complete research and identify key stakeholders in the following markets:
 - Academia
 - Government
 - Commercial

Identify funding sources to initiate obtaining a sponsor company and lead academic institution to initiate “Training and Educational Programs for the Cyber Security Work Force”.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am