AMSC Supports the US Congressional M&S Caucus to Make Modeling and Simulation a National Critical Technology

By Bill Waite, Chairman
Alabama Modeling and Simulation Council (AMSC)
The Alabama Modeling and Simulation Council (AMSC) was formed to "establish Alabama as a center-of-excellence and world leader in modeling and simulation."

The agenda of the AMSC encompasses technology, workforce development, industrial development and business practice. Particular activities have included: 1) providing free technical workshops and sponsoring of Huntsville Simulation Conference (HSC) and other technical conferences; 2) leading the establishment of a body-of-knowledge index for the discipline, supporting Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities and events, and supporting professional education and certification; 3) participating in state industrial and economic development by contributions to the Alabama Science and Technology Roadmap effort; and 4) advocating the establishment of North American Industrial Classification Codes (NAICS) for the industry.

Recently, AMSC, in collaboration with state and regional M&S organizations, has been instrumental, together with the United States Congressional Modeling and Simulation Caucus, in launching the U.S. Modeling and Simulation Enterprise Campaign.

The Congressional M&S Caucus is a bi-partisan organization chaired by J. Randy Forbes (R, 5th, VA) and Solomon Ortiz (D, 27th, TX). The caucus serves to "showcase M&S initiatives, promote the M&S industry, and...be a forum to understand the policy challenges facing this growing and versatile technology." Alabama Congressmen Parker Griffith (R, 5th, AL) and Robert Aderholt (R, 4th, AL) are active members of the caucus.

AMSC members have contributed to two activities of the caucus, which have particular significance to the establishment of modeling and simulation as a recognized technical discipline, profession, industry and marketplace. In making these contributions on behalf of the Alabama M&S community-of-practice, they have significantly influenced the national M&S agenda.

In 2007, the Congressional Caucus members coordinated passing House Resolution 487, indicating the contribution of modeling and simulation technology to the security and prosperity of the United States, and recognizing modeling and simulation as a "National Critical Technology." Members of the AMSC served on the National Training and Simulation Association (NTSA) Standing Committee, which provided draft language for that resolution.

On February 1, the "2010 M&S Leadership Summit" event was conducted by NTSA on behalf of the U.S. Congressional M&S Caucus. Once again, AMSC representatives served on the Standing Committee Meeting Coordination Team to establish the theme and objective of the meeting and to coordinate meeting preparation and execution. The theme of the "Congressional M&S Caucus Leadership Summit 2010" workshop meeting event was: "Realizing the Promise of House Resolution 487." The objective of the workshop meeting was to: "Commit to Realize H.Res.487, — declaring Modeling and Simulation a "national critical technology" — by establishing, implementing and initiating a national M&S enterprise campaign to accelerate evolution for M&S discipline, workforce, industry and market." The result of the workshop was to begin work on the specification of a national campaign program-of-action for modeling and simulation.
Elements of the prospective campaign program plan that are being influenced by Alabama M&S community include the following:

**TECHNOLOGY**
What precisely is M&S, and what research problems deserve national attention?
e.g.: Body of Knowledge Index publication and national consensus research agenda identification

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
How can we improve the national M&S workforce?
e.g.: Certified M&S Practitioner program; STEM projects; curricular development; and accredited graduate academic degree programs

**INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**
What organizations are necessary to coordinate a national M&S enterprise campaign; and how should those organizations collaborate?
e.g.: organizational relations and collaboration; need / opportunity for national M&S foundation; and reconciliation of state and regional industrial development agendas.

**BUSINESS PRACTICE**
What business practices are essential to the well-being of the national M&S industry and market?
e.g.: NAICS classification and Department of Commerce job-labor-category professional classification status

The implication for Alabama and the National M&S agenda of the creation of a national M&S enterprise campaign, supported by the U.S Congressional M&S Caucus, is that the evolution of modeling and simulation as a technology upon which the nation’s security and economic welfare may reasonably depend can be conducted as a win-win enterprise across the entire nation. Collective, cooperative investment in the M&S industry will serve AMSC’s agenda, without entailing unnecessarily competitive zero-sum tactics by respective state and regional interests.

The AMSC is serving Alabama and National M&S communities-of-practice in imaginative, influential and immediate ways. Among these means are the realization of H.R.487 through the establishment and execution of a national M&S enterprise campaign, in concert with the actions of the U.S House of Representatives M&S Caucus. Please consider joining your colleagues in AMSC in order to share in this exciting experience.

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a  http://forbes.house.gov/Biography/MSCaucus.htm
c  http://www.ndia.org/Resources/OnlineProceedings/Pages/91CO-2009MSSLeadershipSummit.aspx