

# 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, 5<sup>th</sup>, VA)<sup>a</sup> and Solomon Ortiz (D, 27<sup>th</sup>, 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, 5<sup>th</sup>, AL) and Robert Aderholt (R, 4<sup>th</sup>, 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<sup>b</sup>, 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<sup>c</sup> 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

**Alabama Modeling & Simulation Council**

**INTENTION:**  
Establish Alabama as a center-of-excellence and world leader in Modeling and Simulation

**PARTICIPATION:**  
Commercial, Government, Academic and Professional Organizations and individuals, operating in Alabama, with a stake in M&S

**DOMAIN OF INTEREST:**

- All types of modeling and simulation schemas, tools, and techniques
- All phases of M&S lifecycle
- All aspects of the M&S industrial and business environment
- All kinds of M&S applications and uses

**OPERATIONAL AGENDA:**

- M&S Technology
- M&S Professional Development
- M&S Business Practice
- M&S Applications and Uses
- M&S Collaboration and Events

**AMSC**  
Alabama Modeling & Simulation Council

[www.AMSC.to](http://www.AMSC.to)

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



Bill Waite

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.

*a* <http://forbes.house.gov/Biography/MScaucus.htm>

*b* H.Res.487 - <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/110-hr487/show>

*c* <http://www.ndia.org/Resources/OnlineProceedings/Pages/91C0-2009MSLeadershipSummit.aspx>