AFEI Releases Industry Perspectives on the Future of DoD IT Acquisition Report

The Association for Enterprise Information (AFEI) has released its report, "Industry Perspectives on the Future of DoD IT Acquisition". The report addresses industry perspectives on the new acquisition process for information technology, as required by the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The report recommends DoD boldly move to rapid, continuous and iterative, development, test, and certification processes similar to those that drive the state-of-the-art commercial IT. The report is available for download at the AFEI website (www.afei.org).

Arlington, VA (Vocus) August 2, 2010 -- The Association for Enterprise Information (AFEI) has released its report, "Industry Perspectives on the Future of DoD IT Acquisition". The report addresses industry perspectives on the new acquisition process for information technology, as required by the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The report recommends DoD boldly move to rapid, continuous and iterative, development, test, and certification processes similar to those that drive the state-of-the-art commercial IT. The report is available for download at the AFEI website (www.afei.org).

Section 804 of the 2010 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) requires the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to report how it will implement imperatives for improving its approach to acquiring Information Technology (IT). The report is due back to Congress sometime this month.

DoD still buys information capabilities using the same processes it uses to buy tanks, planes and ships. The problem is that IT is not at all suited to this type of acquisition. The Task Force concluded that DoD should begin implementation of an improved IT acquisition process immediately by chartering a number of independent, three-year pilot projects to develop selected enterprise capabilities.

The report was generated by the AFEI Industry Task Force representing a broad cross-section from the military services, government, civilian, industry and academia. The focus is on required changes in behavior by Government and industry, as well as means to incentivize those behavioral changes within the realistic constraints of the Defense acquisition landscape.

"Unlocking the real power of current IT is definitely a team sport” said Chris Gunderson, prime editor of the report. “Changing IT acquisition involves a new level of collaboration between government and industry, both from a technical and business model perspective. The payoff in mission capability and rapid reconfigurability is clear to everyone, but doing it well requires all of us to evolve how we play our roles as program managers, acquisition experts, architects, and product and services providers.”

"The unique charter of AFEI and NDIA allowed us to quickly assemble a tremendous breadth of skills and diverse viewpoints from government, industry and academia to quickly make some concrete recommendations to prepare the OSD report for Congress.” Gunderson said. "AFEI members are eager to collaborate with DoD in this area," said Dave Chesebrough, President of AFEI. "Clearly both sides of the IT transaction will be impacted by the significant changes being suggested. We look forward to more of these collaborative efforts as we transition into the agile DoD information environment of the future."
The report's recommendations were provided to Mr. Tim Harp, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, C3ISR and IT Acquisition in mid June, 2010.

About AFEI:
The Association for Enterprise Information (AFEI) is an industry association dedicated to the advancement of the sharing, integration, management and protection of information across extended enterprises (people, process and technology), with a focus on national security and defense issues. AFEI (www.afei.org) is an affiliate subsidiary of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) (www.ndia.org), America's leading defense industry association promoting national security.

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