

For Immediate Release

Contact: CSCC: Mike Hickey, Chair: 202-515-2559
J.M.Hickey@verizon.com



Communications Sector Coordinating Council Announces Strategy for 2007

April 3, 2007, DC - The Communications Sector Coordinating Council (CSCC) held its first quarterly business meeting for 2007 and laid out its strategy for the coming year. Also present for sections of the meeting were Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security and Communications, Greg Garcia, and Staff Director of the House Homeland Security Committee (Democratic Office) Jessica Herrera-Flanigan.

In 2007 the CSCC aims to address several issues, most notably the implementation of the Sector-Specific Plan, a document jointly developed by government and industry which outlines the overarching strategy for the protection of the Communications Sector infrastructure. The CSCC intends to examine how to consolidate the significant risk assessment and protection activities that companies already maintain with new national priorities for securing the nation's critical infrastructures. In addition the CSCC will be working on updates to the National Response Plan (NRP) and the integration of NRP with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

Additionally, the CSCC has established a working group to examine the issues surrounding a Pandemic. In the face of a Pandemic sweeping the nation there is expected to be surge of activity on the nation's communications networks and systems. In 2007 this working group will look at the environment and potential complications of such an increase in traffic on the communications infrastructures.

The CSCC also established a working group aimed at addressing many of the still-unresolved issues at the State and Local level, including access and credentialing for Communications workers in the wake of an emergency. Hurricane Katrina raised some very important issues which still have not been fully addressed in a comprehensive manner. The Council will work in 2007 to find a path forward that can be applied across the nation to ensure these critical workers have access to areas needed to restore vital communications services.

At its quarterly meeting the Council also elected or confirmed new leadership for 2007:

Ron Mathis of Intrado was elected to the Executive Committee, along with Dan Bart of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and Rick Kemper of the CTIA – the Wireless Association. Officers for 2007 are: Chairman, Mike Hickey of Verizon who was Vice Chairman in 2006; Jim Bugel of AT&T, the new Vice Chairman; and Dan Bart, TIA, was re-elected to the Secretary position.

Membership in the Communications Sector Coordinating Council is open to companies and organizations in the communications industry; sector members are invited to learn more about the Communications Sector Coordinating Council by viewing the Council Website at www.commscc.org.

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About the Communications Sector Coordinating Council

The CSCC was established in 2005 to serve the needs of the industry. The broad purpose of the CSCC is to foster and facilitate the coordination of sector-wide activities and initiatives designed to improve physical and cyber security of the critical infrastructures and information flow within the sector, cross-sector, and with DHS. Through the CSCC, private-sector owners, operators, and suppliers, and associations that represent them, can efficiently engage DHS, other federal agencies, local and state governments, and other members of the private sector in collaborating to identify, prioritize, and coordinate policy issues related to the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources, facilitate sharing of information related to physical and cyber threats, and facilitate policy issues related to response and recovery activities and communications following an incident or event.