

NAVAL INNOVATION NETWORK CHARTER

- 1. Name:** Naval Innovation Network (NIN).
- 2. Date Established:** The NIN was announced by the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) on 15 April 2015. The first formal element of the collaboration suite – the ideation platform - was launched on 20 May 2015.
- 3. Date To Be Terminated:** Permanent.
- 4. Definitions:** Provided as Enclosure 1.
- 5. Purpose:** This Charter defines the scope, mission, functions, organization, and component roles and responsibilities of the NIN.
- 6. Background:** On 15 April 2015, SECNAV unveiled the Department of the Navy's (DON) Innovation Vision. The Vision identifies the NIN as a critical enabler for the DON in a world increasingly defined by speed and information sharing. The rapidly accelerating pace of technology development and its accessibility to competitors and adversaries alike, as enabled by the exponential growth of information technology, presents a risk to our nation's naval advantage. Therefore, to remain the world's preeminent maritime force, the DON is accelerating its approach to innovation. The NIN serves as the backbone of this endeavor, enabling dispersed organizations and personnel to rapidly develop a shared understanding of on-going innovation efforts, to learn from past innovation efforts, and to work together to leverage the talented DON workforce to drive innovation, creatively solve critical problems, and identify game-changing opportunities.
- 7. Scope:** The NIN is a network of DON personnel working toward the shared goal of maintaining and advancing the operational advantages of our Naval Services. The NIN allows forward-thinking DON personnel to connect and collaborate on innovation activities across services, components and levels. The NIN is designed to be an agile and adaptive, technology-enabled network-of-networks, capable of identifying, connecting and growing innovation networks within the DON innovation ecosystem. The NIN will continuously evolve to accommodate rapidly changing technologies and organizational constructs as well as inform concept, CONOPS and wargame developers to accelerate the ideation process. Network functionalities and tools will focus on generating an environment and network behaviors that encourage, support and mentor freedom of action and individual initiative on innovation activities. The NIN is open to DON organizations, activities and units, formal and informal innovation networks, and to all individual DON military members and civilians of any rank and grade.
- 8. Mission:** The NIN serves to rapidly connect people, ideas and information. It enables the innovative ideas of our Sailors, Marines and Civilians to reach the right experts, developers and decision makers. It serves as a forum to exchange best practices, share information, develop ideas, support and scale local innovation programs, and connect experimenters and innovators to the multitude of virtual and physical resources supporting innovation throughout the DON. The NIN cultivates organizational learning by enabling DON members to create, acquire and transfer

knowledge and align to Navy and Fleet strategies and design. It reduces duplication of effort, speeds development and implementation, and reduces the cost of innovation. In doing so, it helps the DON continuously transform and adapt in a rapidly changing and unpredictable world.

9. Functions: Specific NIN functions include:

- a. Providing innovators and their ideas a conduit to appropriate DON information, resources, experts, developers or decision makers, at the appropriate level of the enterprise, in order to assess ideas and support and speed development or implementation. Provide pathways for DON personnel and their ideas to relevant private industry, academia or other innovation resources outside of the NIN.
- b. Providing or enabling connections to people, such as DON personnel working on similar innovation initiatives, DON experts who can field and answer innovator's questions, and experts in relevant specialized programs such as the DON Office of Small Business Programs and the SECNAV Tours with Industry Program.
- c. Contributing to the strategic communication of the DON innovation message, as both a means to identify and a channel for communicating innovation events, initiatives and achievements.
- d. Providing an on-line common directory of innovation organizations and the subject matter areas of their innovation efforts in order to accelerate learning by identifying what innovative work has been done or is currently in process across the enterprise.
- e. Providing a technology-enabled common operating picture of active DON-certified and commercial networks used to discuss and promote innovation issues.
- f. Hosting the Innovation Awards Central Repository in accordance with the DON Innovation Incentive Program (IIP), as well as providing a conduit for recognizing team and individual achievements in innovation.

10. Organization: The NIN is a network established under the authority of the SECNAV and includes:

- a. All interested DON organizations, activities, units, innovation centers and networks, and individual Sailors, Marines, and Civilians;
- b. The DON Innovation Sustainment Group (DISG): a cross-departmental group of thinkers, experts, and warfighters drawn from the Task Force Innovation Implementation Group and the NIN Working Group, who will monitor, assist and sustain the implementation of the DON Innovation Vision, and;
- c. A technology-enabled platform and collaboration suite consisting of:

(1) A NIN Hub which provides a directory and mapping of DON-wide innovation activities, an innovation incentives award central repository, collaboration tools, and other resources to assist DON innovators.

(2) A crowdsourcing tool to enable the ideation process, where ideas can be submitted, debated and evaluated, and where innovators connect to each other and to the resources needed to develop their concepts and ideas. (See Enclosure 2.)

(3) Social Business Software which would provide a useful platform and tool to compound widespread idea generation across communities.

11. Innovation Roles and Responsibilities:

a. The Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy (Management) (DUSN (M)) Office of Strategy and Innovation will:

(1) Serve as the facilitator for the NIN.

(2) Promote DON senior leadership support for the network.

(3) Develop and coordinate a NIN battle rhythm including:

(a) Monthly meetings of the DISG to address upcoming innovation events, and strategic communications requirements or opportunities;

(b) Monthly briefings to the DISG by selected NIN members on local innovation efforts.

(c) Periodic briefings to DON senior leadership by the DISG on promising innovation initiatives or activities identified through the NIN and deemed worthy of consideration for possible sponsorship or resourcing.

(d) Provide assessment of NIN outcomes.

(4) Establish, develop, maintain and continuously improve the NIN Hub and the DON ideation platform and processes.

(5) Recommend and provide strategic communications messaging to the enterprise on DON innovation activities and achievements. Develop a strategic communications battle rhythm including:

(a) Regular coordination and integration with Navy Chief of Information (CHINFO), innovative organizations, activities and units, and NIN members to generate timely synchronized strategic messaging, and;

(b) Publishing a quarterly newsletter on NIN activities for distribution to all hands.

(6) Direct any intractable issues or barriers to innovations, uncovered by NIN activities, to the Naval Innovation Advisory Council (NIAC), as appropriate.

b. Assistant Secretaries of the Navy, the Office of General Counsel, Chief of Naval Operations, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps will:

(1) Actively encourage and support participation in the NIN from all echelons of their organizations.

(2) Support the entry and maintenance, on the NIN Hub, of their respective organization's innovation issues, projects, contacts, events, educational and training opportunities, best practices, and tradecraft to facilitate information sharing and collaboration, and to accelerate organizational learning.

(3) Ensure that innovation awards in all levels of their organizations are entered into the collaborative suite's Innovation Award Central Repository in accordance with the IIP.

c. All Hands:

(1) May use the NIN to contribute new ideas, collaborate, exchange best practices, identify barriers to innovation, and advance ideas that improve the DON organization at any level.

(2) Shall maintain a professional demeanor when discussing ideas within the NIN virtual platforms; respect the rules of conduct for the NIN virtual platforms, treat other participants respectfully, and offer constructive inputs, criticisms, observations and ideas.

12. Relationships: Within the DON, the NIN will dynamically link idea generators, innovation specialists, and a broad crowd-sourcing community to advance and share ideas and facilitate the ideation process. Where possible and applicable, similar relationships will be cultivated with:

a. Department of Defense (DOD): Other Services, Defense Agencies, the Joint Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

b. Other Federal Agencies and departments.

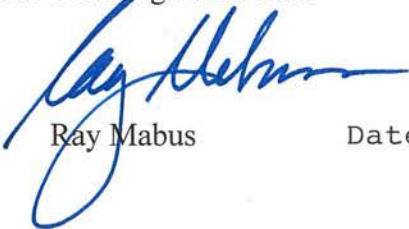
c. Private Industry: Web-based vendors, industry, research facilities, consultants, and others.

d. Not-for-Profits and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

e. Research laboratories and academia.

13. Charter Review: This charter will be reviewed, updated or modified as required and communicated to the DUSN (M), the DISG and the NIN community via the NIN Hub.

14. Effective Date: This charter is effective as of the signature date.



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Date December 12, 2016

DEFINITIONS

1. Collaboration. Working with others to do a task and to achieve shared goals. It is a recursive process where two or more people or organizations work together; showing a deep collective determination to reach an identical objective, for example an endeavor that is creative in nature by sharing knowledge and resources.
2. Crowdsourcing. The process of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people, and especially from an online community, rather than from traditional employees or suppliers. Crowdsourcing combines the efforts of self-identified volunteers or part-time contributors, where each one, acting on their own initiative, makes a small contribution that combines with those of others to achieve a greater result.
3. Ideation. The creative process of generating, developing, and communicating new ideas. Ideation comprises all stages of a thought cycle, from innovation, to development, to actualization. As such, it is an essential part of the design process, both in education and practice.
4. Innovation. Innovation combines the ideas, insights, and resources of our Sailors, Marines and DON Civilians in new ways to benefit the Naval services.
5. Network. A group or system of interconnected people or things. A series of points or nodes interconnected by communication paths.

THE HATCH – THE DON CROWDSOURCING AND IDEATION PLATFORM

The Department of the Navy (DON) launched its crowdsourced ideation platform, the "Hatch," on May 20, 2015. The Hatch is part of the DON Naval Innovation Network (NIN).

The Hatch is an accessible, virtual collaboration forum where innovators can submit their creative ideas for improving the DON. In the Hatch, ideas can be refined through crowdsourcing and further developed by local innovators and subject matter experts.

The Hatch enables the DON to connect innovators locally. It provides the opportunity to receive and share innovative ideas at the right level to get solutions to problems the DON encounters every day.

The Hatch is a continuation of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) highly successful initiative to reduce administrative distractions (RAD). The RAD ideas and user profiles are fully integrated into the Hatch.

The DON workforce can establish an account using their .mil, .gov, and military.edu email addresses. Once an account is created, the innovator will be able to submit and monitor ideas through their work or personal desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone.

The NIN Working Group has developed an efficient, collaborative and transparent process to ensure all ideas are evaluated fairly.

An incentive/rewards structure has been developed to recognize those who submit ideas, actively collaborate and advance ideas through development and implementation.

The Hatch conducts topical "Challenges" as one of the prime mechanisms to help local organization, local innovators, or Communities of Interest dive deeper into the issues and develop ideas related to the topic of their challenge.

Access to, and additional information about the Hatch, may be found at:
<http://www.secnav.navy.mil/innovation/Pages/Home.aspx>