NATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE 2022 ANNUAL FEDERAL ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

INTRODUCTION:

National Technical Information Service Advisory Board (NTIS Advisory Board or Board) is a statutory Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Board. The Secretary of Commerce, pursuant to Section 212(c) of the National Technical Information Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 3704b(c)), established the NTIS Advisory Board, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. The NTIS Advisory Board shall review and make recommendations to improve NTIS programs, operations, and general policies in support of NTIS's mission to advance Federal data priorities, promote economic growth, and enable operational excellence by providing innovative data services to Federal agencies through joint venture partnerships with the private sector.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP:

- Dr. Ajit Gaddam, Advisory Board Chair
- Mr. Aaron D. Burciaga
- Ms. Claire L. Walsh (Term ended March 2022)
- Ms. Diana M. Zavala

BOARD ACTIVITIES:

- Public Meeting: October 22, 2021, hosted virtually
- Public Meeting: June 6, 2022, hosted virtually

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

October 22, 2021 Recommendations:

1. Dr. Gaddam shared the Board has strong alumni relationships that could be leveraged so NTIS will reach out to obtain the contacts
2. Mr. Burciaga shared he was available to help evaluate some of the upscaling platform. He agreed with the importance of training the workforce and thought there was value in training as well as communication. The FBI is an example of an agency using these platforms and he will provide contacts to NTIS for further investigation.
3. Mr. Burciaga recommended that we work with Dr. Chraibi to hire practice leads in specific fields such as data engineering and operations, automation, cyber-analytics and supply chain analytics. He suggested that Dr. Chraibi look at chapter and sections to help with the ODS organization.
4. The State Department is asking for help with partnerships. Dr Gaddam reiterated to "follow the money" and provided there appears to be many potential cyber opportunities.
5. Mr. Burciaga suggested the Small Business Association (SBA) and the registry of the HUBZone certified could be

valuable for the Joint Venture Partner (JVP) program.

6. Mr. Burciaga was willing to share thoughts on additional organizations for promoting the JVP program.

7. The Board for any companies that may be willing to help with digitization. Mr. Burciaga shared the Board could assist asking for Mr. Strickland to follow-up.

8. Ms. Zavala suggested NTIS explore offerings of AI trust assessment capability and ML operations insight.

9. Ms. Walsh asked that NTIS anticipate future demand on AI regulations or a future EOs. She emphasized how NTIS could support agencies with transparent and ethical AI frameworks.

> Status: Ongoing. Dr. Chraibi's efforts directly support these efforts. To date, we have not had any request from agencies to fund this. The Commerce Data Strategy report has been published in July 2021. Chakib has been tasked to work on Commerce Strategic Objective 4.3: "Advance ethical, responsible, and equitable use of Commerce data"

10. Mr. Burciaga asked if NTRL has a future road map for the evolution over the next 3-5 years. Mr. Strickland will share with the Board the 3-year plan once completed. Combining the previous item 11 to this effort "Mr. Burciaga recommended NTRL as a Service and NTRL as a governance service. NTIS will investigate and provide an update."

> Status: In Progress. Mr. Capella stated we still need to find ways to tap in the quality of the NTRL data. At this point we did not see a mechanism to find financial value to NTIS. We are in a holding on obtaining funding to digitize the documents in the library. NTRL team continues to fine tune the 3-year plan shared at the May 2021 FACA Board

11. Mr. Burciaga recommended the OPM team meet to whiteboard actions towards the direction of quantified results. He reviewed Slides 22 and 23 from the earlier presentation recommending what happened as an outcome but shared we did not quantify as "man hours", "lives saved" or "dollar and cents."

> Status: In Progress. The LADMF and NTRL teams have been assessing the technical challenges for gathering metrics data from out NTIS systems. Project Managers are evaluating options and drafting language for legal review regarding the sharing of metrics between client agency, JVP and NTIS. This presents a problem because this is not our data.

12. Mr. Burciaga asked if there was any thinking toward a NTIS hack-a-thon. He felt that the large trove of data available coupled with the JVP could be the basis for the quarterly or semi-annual hack-a-thon. This may be excellent incubator. This recommendation could allow NTIS to sponsor the "problem du jour" at one of the agencies.

> Status: In Progress. We will need to revisit after resources become available from the upgrades and migrations. Mr. Burciaga suggested doing this with another entity and can provide potential hackathons to investigate.

13. Mr. Burciaga' s organization focus included the impact of telework. He asked that NTIS consider how post-COVID changed how NTIS operates. He suggested NTIS looks at provided data for platforms as a JV opportunity – Analytics as a Service, Insights as a Service, and Platform as a Service.

> Status: In Progress. NTIS is engaged with the Department at the leadership level on how NTIS and the other Commerce bureaus will operate going forward. That includes how telework might evolve as well as potentially remote work assignments. DOC will follow OPM guidance.

14. Dr. Gaddam focused on the post-COVID actions at NTIS. Post-COVID represents a tremendous opportunity for talent acquisition absent the geographical restrictions. He recommended seeking talent to include new college hire to augment the current staff.

Status: In Progress. NTIS continues to use a variety of hiring authorities to augment the staff. OPM is considering the definition remote work and the ability to telework more. The OPM policy will be forthcoming.

15. Mr. Burciaga shared the largest opportunity should be in the NTRL and data subscription comparing the opportunity to Netflix and iTunes. Also, should look at monetize by scraping reports and exploring the role of the JVP. Mr. Burciaga offered another session to assist with this initiative.

Status: In Progress. The NTRL team will develop a review of the legislative mandate that prevents NTIS from charging for public access to the NTRL. Will be seeking Mr. Burciaga' s input for opportunities to improve relationship with commercial database industry and JVPs. We will continue to seek ways to monetize the data.

16. Dr. Gaddam and Mr. Burciaga shared NTIS should explore focusing on cyber specialization and cloud. Further consideration to an IT lead for a Center of Excellence (COE) on automation analytics and AI as well as cyber and cloud. He shared IT should consider having a person lead the COE and supporting the ODS team. NTIS will investigate the feasibility of a lead for the COE structure. (Chakib)

Status: In Progress. NTIS is investigating further opportunities. OMB and CISA have issued guidance to move all Federal agencies to a shared zero-trust maturity model for FY22-24. However, no funding has been provided. Legal is assisting NTIS with language to get our authority modified.

There were 9 due outs in progress from the past meetings with 7 new items making a total of 16 in progress and new items for discussion at the next meeting.

June 6, 2022 Recommendations:

1. Ms. Zavala suggested NTIS explore offerings of AI trust assessment capability, EO and ML operations insight. Combining items 1 and 2 from the last meeting. The effort is in progress with Dr. Chraibi as lead.
2. Mr. Burciaga suggested we investigate finding ways to monetize the NTRL using scraping of reports as a value-add naming it as "Information/ Insights as a Service" as an offering. This effort is in progress. Mr. Strickland shared the NTRL team is continuing to draft the plan. He shared NTRL must be viewed as cost-recovery opportunity.
3. Mr. Burciaga asked if there was any thinking toward a NTIS hack-a-thon. This may be excellent incubator. The status is in progress. Updates will be predicated on selecting a new AD for data services.
4. Mr. Burciaga recommended that we work with Dr. Chraibi to hire practice leads in specific fields such as data engineering and operations, automation, cyber-analytics and supply chain analytics. He suggested that Dr. Chraibi look at chapter and sections to help with the ODS organization. The status is in progress. This is a long-term objective and should be linked to the hiring of the new AD for data services
5. Dr. Gaddam and Mr. Burciaga shared NTIS should explore focusing on cyber specialization and cloud. Further consideration to an IT lead for a Center of Excellence (COE) on automation analytics and AI as well as cyber and cloud. He shared IT should consider having a person lead the COE and supporting the ODS team. NTIS will investigate the feasibility of a lead for the COE structure. The status is in progress with Dr. Chraibi assisting with the DOC COE.
6. Mr. Burciaga shared the DOD Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC)

suggesting NTIS consider Analytics Maturity model certification or Ethical AI certification. (new)

7. Mr. Burciaga suggested an organization focus to include the impact of telework. He asked that NTIS consider how post-COVID changed how NTIS operates. Dr. Gaddam focused on the post-COVID Staffing to include augmenting staff with new college hires. The status is in process. Mr. Capella will update the results of the waiver request to the DOC.

8. Mr. Burciaga recommended the OPM team meet to whiteboard actions towards the direction of quantified results such as quantify as "man hours", "lives saved" or "dollar and cents." He offered to participate. NTIS will schedule the meeting to include the Board members. The status is in progress with Mr. Strickland leading the updates.

9. Dr. Gaddam shared the Board has strong alumni relationships that could be leveraged so NTIS will reach out to obtain the contacts. The status is in progress with Mr. Strickland sharing the development of an outreach campaign. The OPM team will reach out to Dr. Gaddam for additional insights.

10. The Board for any companies that may be willing to help with digitization. Mr. Burciaga shared the Board could assist asking for Mr. Strickland to follow-up. The status is in progress with Mr. Strickland investigating further.

11. Mr. Burciaga suggested a step 2 adding digitalizing to the initial FCPS work. (new)

12. Mr. Burciaga brought forth an earlier idea of Analytics Maturity Model Certification for consideration with the NTRL. Further asked for consideration in the NTRL plan include NTRL features, functions or capabilities that could be shared as future releases over the next 3-years. (new)

13. Mr. Burciaga thought the idea may have some merit as a clearing house that could eventually be added to the NTRL supporting NTIS status in data brokerage. (new)

14. Mr. Burciaga suggested the SBA and the registry of the hub zone certified could be valuable for the JVP program. The status is in progress with Mr. Caldwell investigating further.

15. Mr. Burciaga was willing to share thoughts on additional organizations for promoting the JVP program. The status is in progress. Mr. Caldwell will take the lead to investigate further with the AB.

16. Ms. Zavala suggested exploring positioning NTIS case studies in the ACT-IAC Innovation Inventory. (new)

17. Dr. Gaddam asked if we have or can measure the social media engagement/outreach. Linked-in, key words and social media postings are a few areas for consideration. In the age of COVID, Dr. Gaddam felt the digital outreach opportunities are an important part of the outreach strategy. (new)

18. Dr. Gaddam suggested outreach through events such as RSA, cyber security event as another type of outreach. Securing a booth would allow sharing information on how to work with NTIS and JVP. (new)

19. Mr. Burciaga suggested adding a "front door" to access information on NTIS. He shared he could assist with exemplars for the front door concept. As part of this concept, Dr. Chraibi would like to explore adding whitepapers. (new)

20. Dr. Gaddam shared his willingness to assist with the R&D labs similar to the introduction to Carnegie Mellon. (new)

21. Ms. Zavala and Mr. Burciaga felt there are clear opportunities with community colleges

for interns to work on capstone projects as well as data work citing examples with DOD.

> o Mr. Burciaga thought the idea may have some merit as a clearing house that could eventually be added to the NTRL supporting NTIS status in data brokerage. (new)

There were 17 due outs in progress from the past meetings with 5 closed, 2 combined and 10 new items making a total of 21 in progress and new items for discussion at the next meeting.

Minutes:

- October 22, 2021 Public Meeting
  https://www.ntis.gov/assets/pdf/FACANTISAdvisoryBoardMinutesOct27_2021Finalsigned1-10-22.pdf

- June 6, 2022 Public Meeting
  https://www.ntis.gov/assets/pdf/advbd-minutes-20220606.pdf

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