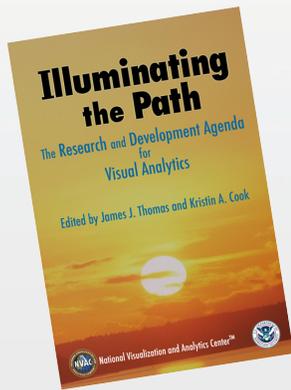




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*Illuminating the Path*, a Research and Development Agenda for visual analytics, was developed to define the directions and priorities for future research and development programs focused on visual analytics tools. This R&D Agenda provides a coordinated technical vision for government and industrial investments and ensures that a continued stream of technology and tools enter the hands of analysts, border personnel and emergency responders.



# National Visualization and Analytics Center™

## VISUALIZATION AND ANALYTICS CENTER CONSORTIUM

The Visualization and Analytics Center Consortium provides a forum where industry leaders and government specialists collaborate to achieve the best solutions to protect the nation. Prior to formation, an advisory board crafted the framework for the VAC Consortium itself, including developing roles, responsibilities and benefits to its members. Formal launch of the VAC Consortium occurred in summer 2005.

The VAC Consortium comprises representatives from NVAC; industry; academia; and local, state and federal government. The Consortium:

- ▶ Engages public and industry stakeholders to assess the impact of cutting-edge science and technologies
- ▶ Provides training and education through small group technical forums and workshops
- ▶ Provides members direct access to key government and technical leaders and end users to enable the technology deployment process.



### MEMBER BENEFITS

The Consortium provides a unique mechanism for participants to gain a better understanding of Department of Homeland Security challenges and needs. It also provides opportunities to collaborate in revolutionary analytical technology demonstrations. Education, strongly emphasized throughout the VAC approach, is extended to Consortium members through classes. Access to those knowledgeable in the analytical process also helps Consortium members gain a better appreciation



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**ENERGY**

for analysts' and first responders' problems and their approach to those problems. For example, in the first Consortium meeting, two experts taught a 3-hour session about the analytical warning task. This class provided explanations of analysts' processes, terminology and challenges.

Consortium members also gain access to those who are leading VAC funded research and development. NVAC and Regional Visualization and Analytics Center leaders provide updates on their research. A fundamental tenet of the Consortium is to promote communication among its members to advance technology development, the evaluation of new technology and the deployment of technology to the end users.



## STAKEHOLDER BENEFITS

Besides DHS, other government agencies and academic and industry stakeholders own aspects of the challenge of terrorism and benefit from the technologies and tools developed by NVAC.

Coordination of related activities is the responsibility of the representatives from these organizations. The activities of the Consortium promote a high level of information exchange between NVAC/RVAC and other suppliers of visual analytics technology solutions. Through meetings and discussions, the Consortium members gain unique insight into the activities of NVAC programs, including the RVACs.

The consortium meetings are well attended by over 120 individuals and rotate from the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to an off-site venue. Participants represent a broad cross-section of interests and include senior representatives from DHS, the intelligence community, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, industry and academia. There has also been increasing international presence.

## Visualization and Analytics Centers



### VAC Consortium Members



For more information, contact  
Kris Cook  
Phone: (509) 375-6347  
kris.cook@pnl.gov

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## ABOUT PNNL

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, located in southeastern Washington State, is a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science laboratory that solves complex problems in energy, national security and the environment, and advances scientific frontiers in the chemical, biological, materials, environmental and computational sciences. The Laboratory employs more than 4,200 staff members, has a \$918 million annual budget, and has been managed by Ohio-based Battelle since 1965.

### Contact

Richard May  
National Visualization and Analytics  
Center Director  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
P.O. Box 999, MSIN J4-32  
Richland, WA 99352  
Phone: (509) 375-6976  
richard.may@pnl.gov  
[nvac.pnl.gov](http://nvac.pnl.gov)



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