

HLA Technology Transition: The Challenge and the Way Forward

Col Wm. Forrest Crain
Director, Defense Modeling and Simulation Office
Suite #500
1901 North Beauregard St.
Alexandria, VA 22311
wcrain@dmsomil

Philomena Zimmerman
PM, HLA Program
Suite #500
1901 North Beauregard St.
Alexandria, VA 22311
pzimmerman@dmsomil

Chris Turrell
IITRI/AB Tech Group
Suite #400
1901 North Beauregard St.
Alexandria, VA 22311
cturrell@dmsomil

Abstract

The transition of technology from the “developer” to the “user” often determines the ultimate success or failure of a program. The challenges are many and significant. First among these is that the technology program must be structured to support that transition. This is something that can only be accomplished over time with the ultimate goals of the program oriented on a sustainable product after transition. Second, there must be a clear and realistic appraisal of the adopters and commercial interests of the adopters. The user community is not one homogeneous group. In fact, to the contrary, users are separated by their willingness to accept change and the level of support they require before adopting a new technology. Understanding the various user groups and their demands is key to a successful transition. Consider also that the user of the technology is only one of the target groups that must “buy in”. For the technology to survive and prosper, it must also be supported, and this requires the development of markets and the participation of industry in the support of those markets. Add to all of this the unpredictable influences of changes in related technologies and the requirement for a deliberate transition strategy becomes even more apparent.

This presentation will provide details of the HLA technology transition strategy and plan. It will address an analysis of the current HLA program and compare and contrast the goals and objectives for the program with those of the user community and commercial support base. The purpose of this analysis is to identify gaps between the program as it exists and the program as it will need to exist in the future for the successful transition is to occur. It will also outline initiatives aimed at restructuring the program to streamline post transition support requirements and to seed the commercial market place to insure the availability of commercial support.