

Enhancing the Security of America's Critical Infrastructures: A National Model

The Need

The unprecedented opportunities brought about by the widespread adoption of the Internet are well known. But the open and ubiquitous environment that makes these opportunities possible also creates significant threats and risks, some familiar and some new. To counter them, while still reaping the benefits of on-line commerce, it is now essential for manufacturers to provide their customers and supply chain partners with rock solid information assurance capabilities.

The NCMS Response

As a new addition to the National Infrastructure Protection Center's (NIPC) InfraGard program, the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences (NCMS) has established an InfraGard Manufacturing Industry Association (IMIA), in partnership with the FBI, to enhance the security of the manufacturing community's critical infrastructures and equip

manufacturers with world class information assurance knowledge, services and products. The first industry association of its kind, IMIA brings new strategic dimensions to the InfraGard program and complements the educational and communications objectives of InfraGard's local chapters.

The Action Plan

IMIA is the first component of a comprehensive NCMS information assurance program designed to serve as an alliance and resource for manufacturers. IMIA primarily supports business collaborators who are at risk from infrastructure disruptions. The initiative communicates and provides access to advancements and best practices that address critical infrastructure risks and threats. IMIA's goal is to build trust among partici-

pants in such a way that enables them to leverage expertise with manufacturing partners. All current and future NCMS members are eligible to participate in the program.

Member Benefits

IMIA communications and member benefits are provided through an expansion of the services offered by NCMS to various categories of partners and members, as shown here:

Alliance Partners: Email magazine and web-based awareness communications.

Community Members: (current)—ProQuest Business Information, Manufacturing Automation Software Guides, D&B Business Reports, Customized Research, NCMS Technical Reports, News, (IMIA enhancements)—Access to InfraGard privileged information, Critical Analyses, Employee Awareness News, Content Archives, Discounts, Ask the Expert.

Forum Members: Leadership Forum, IMIA Executive Board, high-level face-to-face executive briefings, collaborative Business Trials, partnership in cyber-forensics with West Virginia University, executive communications.

Join Now!

The InfraGard Manufacturing Industry Association provides thought leadership in the business-enabling capabilities of advanced information and infrastructure assurance. Come join NCMS if your company appreciates the importance and impact of the rapid information technology evolution in industry.

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