

# Small Telecommunications Operator Information Sharing Study and Pilot Project

## Situational Awareness

Cyber threat intelligence is a critical input into a cyber security risk-management strategy, as it assists with identifying and assessing threats, and offers mitigation techniques to manage cyber risks. Indeed, the Federal government has long recognized the importance of public-private information sharing to improve an individual company's cyber program- and collectively the nation's cyber posture- through the development and support of Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs), Information Sharing and Analysis Organizations (ISAOs), and venues such as the FBI's InfraGuard and the DHS NCC/NCCIC.

Small telecommunications operators have limited financial, technical, and operational resources. As a result, most small operators do not actively participate in cyber threat information sharing venues, and may not be receiving critical intelligence required to inform and bolster their security efforts.

## Project Overview

This project will undertake a feasibility study and a beta test/pilot project for a new cyber information sharing forum for small telecommunications operators. NCTA's research will focus on the technical, financial, and operational feasibility of creating a new, sustainable, information sharing forum for small telecom operators that will include the value derived from a potential partnership with an existing public or private entity. The project will include a beta test wherein a small group (75 participants) will receive a regular threat intelligence report for a minimum of two months. A daily cyber threat intelligence report for the small operator community which is filtered to meet their unique needs will be part of the pilot project. NTCA will then collect feedback from the participants which will further enrich the research study. NTCA will deliver a final report which identifies outstanding challenges and recommendations for an implementation strategy to create a long-term, sustainable mechanism to enable small telecom operators to actively participate within the information sharing community, and thereby critical cyber threat intelligence that meets their unique needs.



## Next Steps

This project is exploring the feasibility of a new mechanism or forum to address small telecom operators' information sharing needs, culminating in a final report that recommends a sustainable, long-term implementation strategy and/or identifies outstanding challenges to implementation.

In addition to this research study, and the subsequent long-term benefits which will accrue to the more than 1,000 small telecom operators within the sector, this project will improve the short-term knowledge of beta testers, as they will benefit from a regular cyber threat intelligence report which contains timely, actionable, and relevant intelligence about the current cyber threat landscape.



To learn more about this project, contact  
Jay Robinson, DHS Program Manager, at [jay.robinson@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:jay.robinson@hq.dhs.gov) or  
John Taylor, CEO, NIHS at [jdtaylor@thenihs.org](mailto:jdtaylor@thenihs.org) 2018-12.1 pager