

**NIEMOpen/NIEM Model Utilization 2025**

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# BLUF

NIEM celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in 2020. Despite the COVID-19 crisis, NIEM was able to extend its reach – enabling secure, scalable, enterprise-level data interoperability across diverse, complex systems and organizations. Extensive, multi-year efforts were successfully completed, notably, the major NIEM 5.0 Release. This was accomplished with the significant amount of direct NIEM user-community involvement throughout development. A 2020 milestone was the creation and launch of the Defense Acquisition University’s *Introduction to NIEM* courseware.

The NIEM Business Architecture Committee (NBAC) had a most productive 2020. This included the substantive work of the Registry and Repositories Tiger Team, supporting NIEM’s exploration of becoming a formal standard, work in attracting organizations to implement NIEM, and encouraging the standup of new domains and communities of interest. The Emerging Technology Tiger Team is working to identify a NIEM pilot opportunity in 2021. The State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Tiger Team was established to increase user participation and representation. NBAC’s 2020 Annual Meeting was held virtually over four days, many with featured speakers. In 2021, NBAC objectives include continuing the work of the Tiger Teams, initiating a mentorship program, evaluating NIEM tools under development, and advancing NIEM adoption.

The NIEM Technical Architecture Committee’s (NTAC) 2020 highlights focused on satisfying important operational needs. It is committed to supporting all phases of the NIEM lifecycle with free and open-source software. NTAC successfully developed the NIEM JSON specification establishing conformance targets for JSON data. A proof-of-concept prototype converting a NIEM-conforming XML document into the equivalent NIEM JSON or NIEM RDF data was completed. NTAC established guidelines for NIEM’s internationalization with goals to impact both tools and specifications. NTAC continues development of a technology-neutral representation for NIEM models using the Common Model Format (CMF) and metamodel development.

The Best of NIEM awards were launched in 2009. In 2020, we recognized NIEM implementation projects with noteworthy contributions to the use, growth, and adoption of NIEM. These projects Illustrate NIEM’s enabling solutions to real-world problems at the local, statewide, national, and international levels – representing NIEM’s diversity – across domains, agencies, and all levels of government and the private sector.

Key NIEM initiatives begun late in 2019 and 2020 are expected to be completed in 2021, including NIEM.gov website enhancements and migration to the Drupal 8 Content Management System, the IEPD Registry and Repositories, and implementation of the Jira Service Desk™ issue management software. The IEPD Lifecycle Development Process is being automated by re-engineering the NIEM tool landscape. The process of assessing whether NIEM seek to become an accredited standard is going forward, with a self-assessment of governance documents and procedures completed.

Despite 2020’s unparalleled disruptions, NIEM expanded and strengthened its reach and support of enterprise-level information exchanges with significant accomplishments and progress towards long-term goals. NIEM is committed to supporting an ambitious Work Plan for 2021 and beyond.

# Executive Summary

The exercise of preparing an annual report provides the opportunity to reflect on the past year’s challenges and accomplishments and allows a focus on the future and NIEM’s way ahead.

COVID-19 was a major disruptor across all of society in 2020. It consumed resources, dramatically altering business practices, operations, and priorities. Novel work environments, interruption of travel, and a shifting reliance on virtual meetings and communications to maintain routine operations was the norm. While anecdotal, our Department of Homeland Security (DHS) partners – representing stewardship of seven of the fifteen NIEM Domains and leading the Emerging Technology Tiger Team – reported that COVID-19 consumed essentially all focus and resources from March through the balance of 2020.

Despite this unparalleled disruption, NIEM was able to expand and strengthen its reach and support of enterprise-level information exchanges. All NIEM’s Executive Steering Council (ESC) meetings, Annual Meetings, and all outreach and engagement activities were conducted virtually in 2020. NIEM leadership remained focused on the NIEM mission, purpose, and enterprise. The NIEM Management Office (NMO) is resourced to support an ambitious Work Plan for 2021 and beyond.

The Executive Steering Council (ESC) is NIEM’s decision-making body regarding membership, funding requirements, program, and technical direction, and other organization decisions. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is currently the ESC’s steward. NIEM’s primary sponsors and ESC members include the DoD, US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS). In September, NIEM’s executive sponsorship transitioned from the ESC Chair, Mr. Peter Ranks (DoD Chief Information Officer) to Mr. David Spirk (DoD Chief Data Officer).

NIEM identified over ten organizations with the potential to become Domains, Communities of Interest (COIs), and/or NIEM adopters during 2020. NIEM internationalization has seen a renaissance in planned activities and products.

A strong, positive indicator of NIEM’s health and potential is the high level of participation and enthusiasm associated with 2020’s “Best of NIEM” award submissions. The NIEM Technical Architecture Committee (NTAC) and NIEM Business Architecture Committee (NBAC) pursued work plans with only minor interruption. Most recently, the NMO implemented Jira Service Desk™ issue management software internally to make the tracking and resolution of user issues more efficient and effective.

Two major NIEM initiatives were completed in 2020:

* Major NIEM’s 5.0 Release
* NIEM courseware for the Defense Acquisition University.

Three major initiatives started in 2020 which are anticipated to be complete in 2021:

* NIEM IEPD Registry and Repositories
* NIEM Tools Development
* NIEM.gov migration to the Drupal 8 Content Management System (CMS).

This report provides a comprehensive review of NIEM, addressing NIEM’s 2021 work plan and goals, as well as providing details of 2020 activities. In year’s past, the annual report focused on NBAC’s equities.

# Introduction

The NMO executes the ESC’s vision for NIEM, managing day-to-day operations, encouraging the adoption and use of NIEM, and overseeing all working group and committee activities. The NMO

# DoD Governance

While the NIEM Business Architecture Committee (NBAC) felt all the constraints associated with COVID-19, 2020 was a very productive year. As a 2019 carryover, the Registry and Repositories Tiger Team completed a System Specifications document in May 2020. This specification outlined the Use Cases, Requirements, constraints, limitations, and assumptions surrounding the need for a NIEM Registry/Repository.

# Legislation

# Stories

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# Statutes

# SLTT

# IEPD Inventory

# International

# Conclusion

# Acronyms