

## ELICIT Community of Interest Agreement

The ELICIT<sup>1</sup> Community of Interest (COI) was formed by the Department of Defense's Command and Control Research Program (CCRP) to promote and facilitate research (and the dissemination of this research) related to information sharing, collaboration, and trust in the context of complex coalition civil-military endeavors. Members of this international community contribute to this enterprise in various ways and, in return, gain access, free of charge, to platforms, data, findings, methods, tools, models, instruments, and other products that have been created or developed by the CCRP and other members of the community.

The foundation of good science and quality analysis is empirical data that are shared among a professional community. The design and conduct of repeatable research is essential for the development of knowledge. The CCRP recognized that the ability to conduct affordable research and the availability of empirical data would stimulate interest in the research community and foster the coalescence of a COI. As a result, the CCRP undertook the development, at Government expense, of an experimental platform that significantly lowers the cost of research in the areas described above while increasing the amount and compatibility of the data produced. ELICIT was and continues to be made available free of charge to members of the ELICIT COI. The CCRP is committed to supporting the COI in a number of other ways, including providing some assistance to first time users of ELICIT; continuing the development of the ELICIT platform; developing an agent-based ELICIT simulation; maintaining an ELICIT member website and a publicly accessible clearinghouse/portal; funding the development of ELICIT-related metrics, instruments, and analysis tools; hosting an ELICIT COI; generating learning tools for use in classes and professional trainings; setting aside a track at the International Command and Control Research and Technology Symposium (ICCRTS); and publishing peer-reviewed papers.

In return for the use of the ELICIT platform and/or access to selected COI products, ELICIT COI members accept a number of obligations and responsibilities designed to promote the conduct of good science, quality analysis, and the development of a shared body of empirical data, findings, and results. Community members agree to contribute in one or more ways, including the conduct of ELICIT-based activities, the development of research infrastructure (e.g., metrics, instruments, and data analysis tools), the conduct of analyses, and the development of conceptual models or testable theories.

Users of the ELICIT platform and/or ELICIT COI-developed infrastructure agree to initially conduct a set of specific applications reflecting well understood structures and processes, such as edge and hierarchy C2. Upon completion of these activities, the results are provided to the CCRP with the purpose of being made available for other research and teaching purposes. The results include—but are not limited to—ELICIT log files that are generated automatically in each application, participant notes, results from surveys, and debriefings. Since some ELICIT applications and analyses have and will continue to be focused on the impact of individual and team characteristics, care is taken to appropriately protect the privacy of participants. Users are expected to follow the research designs of previous applications as closely as possible, understanding that such designs will become increasingly refined over time by building upon results of prior experiments.

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<sup>1</sup> ELICIT is an acronym for “Experimental Laboratory for Investigating Collaboration, Information-sharing, and Trust.”

It is expected that most COI members will undertake additional ELICIT-based applications in order to explore issues and hypotheses of interest to them. While their obligation to share the data and findings extends to these additional efforts, it is recognized that it is appropriate for them to have a limited opportunity to analyze the data they have collected and to produce and submit papers to the CCRTS and other professional meetings and journals before it is provided to the CCRP for posting on the member website. Given the value of shared information and enhanced collaboration that accessible empirical data provides, members are urged to provide these data and findings as quickly as possible (consistent with quality and best practice). In no case, however, shall this limited period of exclusivity exceed one year. Members also commit themselves to follow the applicable codes of best practice in order to ensure their results are analyzed and reported in a scientifically rigorous manner and that the data collected achieve the high professional standards of reliability and validity required for journal publication.

Some members of the ELICIT COI may contribute in ways other than the conduct of specific applications. Their contributions may include the development of research or analysis infrastructure and/or the conduct of analyses. These members will have the same access to the ELICIT member website and accept the same obligations with regard to sharing the products they produce as members who conduct applications.

Members also commit to sharing their findings and results by presentation and publication at the ICCRTS and the International C2 Journal although they are free (indeed they are encouraged) to submit papers to other professional meetings and journals as well. Generally, papers should be submitted to the first symposium event scheduled after conduct of an experiment using ELICIT. Members are expected further to assist other researchers in the design, conduct, and analysis of applications, as well as to collaborate with one another as time and resources permit. This collaboration is particularly important where analysis of data resulting from others' applications is involved. While consistent with best practices, those conducting applications should make every attempt to document their efforts as completely as possible. In practice, however, it is not possible to record all of the metadata that are relevant for all potential analyses. Thus, it is best practice for analysts to consult and collaborate with those who conducted previous applications.

The objective is to create and sustain a community of ELICIT researchers and educators who work collaboratively with one another to conduct rigorous, relevant, and timely applications that contributes to a growing body of shared knowledge, and to use that knowledge to inform the larger C2 community.

Receipt and use of the ELICIT platform or other related research and analysis infrastructure, or access to the ELICIT website, constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of this COI Member agreement. COI members who are DoD employees continue to be bound by DoD Policy and Directives. COI members who receive Government funding continue to be bound by the terms of their contracts and the policies of those Government agencies providing that funding. Thus, membership in the ELICIT COI may add to the obligations of members of the COI, but does not relieve them of any of other obligations.