



Comparison

DI2E Plugfest and Bending the Cost Curve Plugfest PLUS

Background

There are many plugfest events. The RI2P and PlugFest Consortium (www.plugfestplus.org) has hosted plugfest events associated with various conferences. This concept has evolved and is applied in various ways to demonstrate capabilities in various on-line environments. Recently questions have been asked regarding the differences between the DI2E Plugfest and the Air Force Bending the Cost Curve Plugfest PLUS.

DI2E Plugfest

The concept of a Plugfest event to demonstrate software interoperability and alignment with standards was adopted by the DI2E community to give vendors and opportunity to demonstrate how their products align with the DI2E SvcV-4. The DI2E Plugfest is a collaborative effort to continue the evolution of the DI2E framework. The DI2E Framework provides interoperable and reusable components that are flexible, agile and data-driven. The DI2E Plugfest is run on a virtual, cloud-based environment called Plugfest eXchange, or PX. Vendors integrate their products into the PX environment and are awarded Gold Stars. These are then the basis for vendor product entry into the DI2E Storefront at the basic visibility level (Level 0). At DI2E Plugfest vendors demonstrate to the DI2E community how their products align with the DI2E Technical Profiles. The DI2E community is composed of the DCGS Programs of Record, COCOM JIOCs, and DoD oversight from USD(I), DIA, NRO, TEFT, EFT and the DMO.

Bending the Cost Curve Plugfest PLUS

The Air Force Bending the Cost Curve (BCC) initiative is aimed at speeding up acquisition. According to Secretary James, Air Force Acquisition processes are too slow, resulting in higher costs and longer development times than are acceptable to fully support the warfighter. Through the Bending the Cost Curve initiative the Air Force will develop and implement a wide range of transformative reforms. BCC Plugfest PLUS seeks to access the Commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) Information Technology (IT) marketplace to help evolve and fundamentally improve acquisition processes for rapid evolutionary development of open standards-based information systems.

This is accomplished by combining the concept of a Plugfest on-line demonstration with the Other Transaction Authority (OTA) contracting process to create a rapid way of funding promising technology demonstrations for specific needs of Air Force programs.

The following table offers a comparison of DI2E Plugfest with the BCC Plugfest PLUS to clarify how they are alike, and how they differ.



Comparison: DI2E Plugfest with Bending the Cost Curve Plugfest PLUS

	DI2E Plugfest	Bending the Cost Curve: Plugfest PLUS
Purpose	DI2E Plugfest is all about interoperability using standards and demonstrating industry product alignment with the DI2E SvcV-4 services technical profiles and conformance test kits.	Plugfest PLUS is about leveraging standards for acquisition of a specific capability for Air Force programs (e.g. DCGS-AF).
Frequency	DI2E Plugfest is an annual event, while the Plugfest eXchange (PX) remains a standing environment that vendors can use throughout the year.	PFP will occur when the Air Force has identified a required capability to support a program and accompanying funding for a technology demonstration.
Scope	<p>DI2E Plugfest participation provides exposure to a broad customer base. The DI2E community consists of the DCGS Programs of Record (PoRs) - Air Force, Navy, Army, NGA, Marine Corps, the IC, and SOF, as well as COCOM JIOC instances. Each PoR is measured annually against their ability to align to DI2E standards, so having access to capabilities that can be reused and have been demonstrated to align to DI2E standards is preferred.</p> <p>DI2E Plugfest Mashup Teams directly expose vendor capabilities to Government PoRs. This allows vendors to learn about the customer's environment, hear about their hard technical problems, and demonstrate directly to them how vendor capabilities provide value to their mission.</p> <p>DI2E Plugfest is scheduled to align with the quarterly DI2E Teams Week and thus, key decision makers across DI2E programs are at the event. Over half of the attendees at DI2E Plugfest are Government employees and many of the key leaders within JIE, OUSD(I), IC, and DoD are there.</p>	<p>Plugfest PLUS exposes a vendor team's proposed solutions to Air Force evaluators from the specific program.</p> <p>The first PFP is looking for specific vendor approaches to provide a Multi-Releasable Intelligence Product (MRIP) Generation capability for the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS). The requirement is for a capability to develop, demonstrate, implement and transition enterprise solutions to automate information redaction in support of country-specific intelligence products.</p>



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Benefit	<p>DI2E Plugfest participation gives you a competitive edge. It allows your company to market your DI2E Plugfest accomplishments when pursuing contracts with DI2E PoRs and the broader community.</p> <p>DI2E Plugfest affords Industry the opportunity to shape the DI2E standards that are pushed onto PoRs for alignment. This is a great opportunity to influence DI2E standards in order to highlight your open capabilities and solutions.</p> <p>DI2E Plugfest provides a platform for Industry to demonstrate the openness of their technologies. Open, interoperable and reusable capabilities avoid the stove piped systems which have troubled the DI2E community for many years.</p>	<p>Plugfest PLUS participants are proposing their solution to a specific Air Force requirement, and may be selected for receiving funding for a technology demonstration through the OTA process as a result of the plugfest demonstration.</p>
Business Value	<p>There are no contracts awarded as a result of the DI2E Plugfest. Vendors who complete the requirements to obtain all available Gold Stars can complete the Asset Submission Form to be entered into the DI2E Clearinghouse at Level 0, where the product is visible to and discoverable by the entire DI2E community. Elevation beyond Level 0 requires Government sponsorship and completion of inspection, integration and testing. Once accepted into the Clearinghouse at Level 3, the product is available for selection and use by the DI2E community.</p> <p>Vendors who have completed Plugfest alignment verification have may cite this as a qualifying past performance for purposes of government market research.</p> <p>Once a Government party is interested in a product they may request that it be entered into the validation process above, or may initiate an independent acquisition process.</p>	<p>The objective of the PFP process is to make award(s) to promising solutions to an identified need. If in the opinion of the evaluators none of the submitted solutions are acceptable or promising, an award may not result from the process. On the other hand, if several show promise awards could go to multiple parties. For information on how the Army Contracting Command office at Picatinny Arsenal operates their OT contract with the C5 Consortium review their briefing found on the AFEI PFP web site at http://www.afei.org/events/5A09, Proceedings Tab, Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) Workshop pdf document.</p>
Participation	<p>Participation in DI2E Plugfest is open to participation by any contractor who wishes to demonstrate their capabilities in alignment with the DI2E specs and standards.</p>	<p>Vendors may only participate in the PFP if they are members of the consortium holding the OT contract agreement. In the case of the initial PFP that consortium is the C5 Consortium. In the future the Air Force may choose a different arrangement.</p>