

# FACT SHEET: MD5 BECOMES NSIN



## KEY POINTS:

- THE MD5 NATIONAL SECURITY TECHNOLOGY ACCELERATOR (MD5/NSTA) RE-BRANDS AS THE NATIONAL SECURITY INNOVATION NETWORK (NSIN) ON MAY 6, 2019.
- THE NEW NAME (NSIN) MORE CLEARLY ALIGNS WITH THE MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION AND POINTS TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE END STATE THE OFFICE IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE (A NATIONAL NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES AND COMMERCIAL INNOVATION HUBS THAT ARE DEDICATED TO COLLABORATIVELY SOLVING DOD PROBLEMS WITH DOD END USERS).
- AT THE SAME TIME, NSIN WILL RE-ALIGN WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING (OUSDR&E) TO REPORT THROUGH THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT (DIU).
- MORE INFORMATION ABOUT NSIN'S MISSION, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTPS://WWW.NSIN.US](https://www.nsin.us) STARTING ON MAY 6, 2019.

## FAQS RELATED TO NEW BRANDING:

**Q1: WILL MD5'S MISSION CHANGE, AS IT BECOMES NSIN?**

**A1:** No, not really. There will be some slight modifications to its formal mission statement, but the purpose of MD5 will remain intact, even as it becomes NSIN: to help leverage new pools of talent within the academic and venture communities to solve national security problems better, cheaper, and faster.

**Q2: DOES THE NEW NAME IMPLY THAT NSIN WILL BE LESS INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR DOD?**

**A2:** No, although MD5 was never exclusively focused on technology and has always approached the innovation question from a technology-agnostic perspective. The term "technology accelerator" is a term with real meaning within the venture community and NSIN wanted to be more explicit about what it does vis-a-vis commercial incubators and accelerators rather than unintentionally representing that it performs the same mission as a commercial incubator or accelerator. That said, new technical solutions often emerge as a result of MD5's problem-solving focus and this will likely remain true as MD5 re-brands to become NSIN.

**Q3: WHAT WILL BE THE BIGGEST OPERATIONAL IMPACT OF THE RE-BRANDING TRANSITION?**

**A3: Under the new NSIN moniker, we will no longer offer workforce development programs and services. MD5's Education Portfolio structure, which is focused on exposing DoD intrapreneurs to innovative skill sets, tools, and commercial best practices will sunset on August 1, 2019. In its place, NSIN will create a new, National Service Portfolio that is dedicated to building out new models and pathways to national security service that may include operating in both an official (e.g., creating opportunities for other DoD entities to more directly employ their direct hiring authorities) and unofficial capacity (e.g., donating time to help a military unit build a more effective website).**

**Q4: THE NEW NAME IS SUPPOSED TO BETTER REPRESENT WHAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS TRYING TO BUILD; WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SECURITY INNOVATION NETWORK?**

**A4: NSIN envisions building a series of interconnected, regional national security problem-solving communities throughout the United States. That network will have its "hubs" in major commercial innovation and venture locales throughout the country that also include strong academic research partners: Boston, New York, Washington DC, Raleigh, Chicago, Austin, Omaha, Denver, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. Each hub will be supported by one or more "spokes" that contain top academic institutions that are nestled within emerging start-up ecosystems. By maintaining a physical presence within each one of these hubs and spokes, the Department of Defense will be able to leverage the nation's top talent where it's concentrated in vibrant academic and venture communities throughout the United States. NSIN, then, becomes the connective tissue between importing DoD problems into those ecosystems and exporting novel concepts and solutions back to the Department. This Network will strengthen ties between the academic and venture communities and local DoD entities and facilitate access to problems and solutions nationally through its interconnected series of hubs and spokes.**

