

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 18, 2010

Contact: Laury Sendek
Corporate Communications, Noblis
703-610-2002
laury.sendek@noblis.org

Noblis Team Wins Grand Challenge Award in IEEE's VAST 2010 Challenge

FALLS CHURCH, Va.— August 18, 2010—[The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers \(IEEE\)](#) announced that Noblis has won a Grand Challenge award for Outstanding Debrief in the [2010 Visual Analytics Science and Technology \(VAST\) Challenge contest](#).

Founded by IEEE in 2006, the VAST Challenge is a yearly contest that is designed to push the forefront of visual analytics tools using benchmark data sets and to establish a forum to advance visual analytics evaluation methods. Noblis teamed up with Centrifuge Systems, Future Point Systems, Georgetown University, and Medstar to compete in this year's Challenge.

The 2010 VAST Challenge included three Mini Challenges and a Grand Challenge which endeavored to synthesize information from the Mini Challenges. This year's topics were:

Mini Challenge 1: Text Records – Investigations into Arms Dealing

Mini Challenge 2: Hospitalization Records – Characterization of Pandemic Spread

Mini Challenge 3: Genetic Sequences – Tracing the Mutations of a Disease

Grand Challenge: Integration of Mini Challenges (the Grand Challenge combines all data sets, integrating any possible linkage between the illegal arms dealing and the pandemic outbreak.)

Noblis principal and team leader, Catherine Campbell said, "This year's VAST Challenge was really exciting for Noblis. The three Mini Challenges and the Grand Challenge were a perfect match for Noblis because they allowed us to use our expertise in areas where we excel—science, technology, healthcare, and national security."

Noblis received outstanding reviews for all of their submissions, and received the award for Outstanding Debrief for the Grand Challenge which integrated the information from all the Mini Challenges into an overarching explanation of events in the datasets. There were 58 entries this year from businesses and academics around the world, 5 of which were for the Grand Challenge.

"We are thrilled to win this award," says Amr EISawy, Noblis President and CEO. "Our work on the VAST Challenge is a representative example of how Noblis blends innovation and technology with teamwork and collaboration to create visionary results."

Noblis' work will be published in the VAST 2010 Proceedings and a team from Noblis will present their results at the IEEE VisWeek 2010 Conference in Salt Lake City in October.

Visit Noblis' website to view [Noblis' 2010 VAST Challenge submission](#).

About Noblis, Inc.

Noblis is a nonprofit science, technology and strategy organization that helps clients solve complex scientific, systems, process, and infrastructure problems in ways that benefit the public. Noblis brings the best of scientific thought, management, and engineering know-how in an environment of independence and objectivity to find solutions that are practical, forward thinking, and sustainable. Noblis works in essential areas, including national security, transportation, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and enterprise services. Further information is available at noblis.org.