

# Quarterly Connection

A NIBS Newsletter



## Topics Inside

Page 1-2	Message from the President and CEO
Page 2-3	Event Spotlight: Building Innovation 2026
Page 3	New Beginnings at the NIBS Office
Page 3-4	HUD Supported Breakthrough Regional Pilots Summit Charts a Scalable Path Forward for Offsite Construction and Housing Supply
Page 4-5	Project Spotlight: NIBS Publishes AI Implementation Roadmap for NAVFAC
Page 5	Legislative Affairs
Page 5-8	NIBS Out and About
Page 8-9	NIBS in the News
Page 9	NIBS Events

## Message from the President and CEO, George K. Guszczka, D.Eng, CPEM, CCM



Dear Colleagues,

This month, on behalf of and in cooperation with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), we partnered with MOD X to host the Regional Offsite Construction for Housing Summit. By bringing together representatives of HUD, the Department of Energy (DOE), our regional pilot partners, associations, industry, and academia, we spent the day sharing progress, stress-testing emerging strategies and extracting transferable leading practices.

For the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS), this is one of the ways we are dynamically and vigorously returning to the center of what Congress envisioned when this institute

was founded. And we are energized (dare I say AMPed) to help realize the potential for Affordable, Modular, Performance-based housing that industrialized and modern means, methods, and materials can bring to all communities across our nation. This is core part of our mandate, and we are committed to fulfilling it with renewed focus and accountability.

One of the clearest lessons of our strategic reset is this: To fulfill our mission, NIBS needs to be in genuine partnership with state, territorial, tribal, and local leadership, and the agencies and organizations that are closest to the ground, closest to the communities, and closest to the real-world consequences of building policy and procedures. The same goes for the broader building industry. Building better relationships across the industry is not a “nice-to-have” it is a critical to our mission: to bring together the public and private sectors of the economy.

The United States is facing a housing shortage of historic proportions. Individuals and families are cost-burdened, while industry cannot produce enough housing to meet demand. Fortunately, there are real opportunities and innovations that can and will help bring housing costs down without compromising safety or quality. NIBS intends to do our part and we thank all our partners for their roles and contributions.

**Dr. George Guszczka, President and CEO, National Institute of Building Sciences**



## Event Spotlight

### Building Innovation Conference 2026: Advancing the Built Environment as a System of Systems & Innovations in Offsite Construction



Communities nationwide face mounting challenges, from natural hazards to aging lifeline infrastructure, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated innovation across the built environment. The 14th Annual Building Innovation Conference will be held on May 19–20, 2026 at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner in McLean, VA. The event will bring together leaders from government, the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry, research, community planning, and academia to strengthen America’s infrastructure through integrated, future-focused practices.

Building Innovation 2026 will build upon momentum from our recent Building for Tomorrow Conference, which convened federal, state, and local agencies to advance cross-sector policy alignment and explore how system-wide collaboration can drive long-term resilience across America’s lifeline infrastructure systems. Over two days, curated panels and expert-led sessions will showcase innovations in digital delivery, building codes, housing, capital investment strategies, and adaptive design. The conference will also spotlight two critical focus areas: Systems of Systems, which examines how interconnected infrastructure affects resilience at the national scale, and Modular Offsite Construction, which highlights efficient, scalable building methods aligned with NIBS’ emphasis on applied technologies and forward-looking building science.

Participants can earn AIA LU credits, ICC credits, and certificates of attendance while collaborating across disciplines to address the country’s evolving infrastructure needs.

[Learn more & register now!](#) Early bird rates have been extended to May 1st!

## Exciting New Beginnings at the NIBS Office

### NIBS Opens New Conference Space in Washington, DC

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) is excited to announce the upcoming opening of a new conference space at our Washington, DC office. Construction is currently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of April. Our staff looks forward to hosting events, summits, conferences, and more in this new space. The conference space will host the BIMForum Symposium, as well as a Standards Workshop led by our Digital Technology Program Director, [Jay Kline](#).

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming in-person events. We look forward to welcoming our clients and colleagues to our new spaces with a special open house celebration!

Interested in using our event space? Please contact our Director of Marketing and Communications, [Cheryl Foley](#), at [cfoley@nibs.org](mailto:cfoley@nibs.org).



## HUD Supported Breakthrough Regional Pilots Summit Charts a Scalable Path Forward for Offsite Construction and Housing Supply

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) and its strategic partner MOD X convened for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Breakthrough Regional Pilots Summit on April 7, 2026, at the NIBS offices in Washington, DC. The summit brought together six state/regional groups pioneering offsite-construction housing programs, along with federal and industry leaders, to share lessons and strategies to advance offsite construction as a critical approach to increasing housing supply nationwide.

This was a working summit, focused on program implementation, stress testing emerging regional strategies, aligning near term actions, and identifying pathways to scale proven approaches. Participating regions shared progress on their diverse regional action plans and pilot programs aimed at accelerating offsite housing delivery while navigating real world regulatory, market, and capacity constraints.

The summit marked a major milestone in the two-year HUD-funded HUD Breakthrough Regional Pilots Project: Growing Offsite Construction for Housing Through Regional Pilot Projects, led by NIBS and MOD X. “Over the last several years, we have worked first to identify the core barriers to accelerating offsite construction for housing, then to examine the most effective government-led actions at the national level in the U.S. and in peer contexts including Sweden, the European Union, Japan, and the UK. This summit brought that work down to the regional scale, highlighting what six U.S. regions are doing in practice and how those efforts align with past lessons and global best practices. We were also fortunate to gain input from federal agencies, including HUD and the Department of Energy alongside partners such

as the International Code Council, on how these local efforts dovetail with broader federal efforts to address the ongoing housing affordability crisis,” said Ivan Rupnik, Founding Partner of MOD X.

Participating regions—Minnesota, Virginia, Greater Boston, Utah, Washington, and California—presented their diverse action plans and pilot concepts. Each presentation highlighted regional housing goals, implementation actions, proposed legislation, pilot designs, infill strategies, and cross sector coordination and education needs, enabling peers and federal partners to identify common challenges and transferable solutions.

“Our summit demonstrates the power of regionally grounded action paired with national collaboration,” said George Guszczka, President and CEO of the National Institute of Building Sciences. “By aligning policymakers, industry, and researchers around shared outcomes, we can modernize housing delivery systems and accelerate the adoption of high performance, affordable solutions.”



Discussions also explored the establishment of Regional Innovation Hubs that integrate industry, government, academia, and nonprofit partners, as well as the future role of Housing System Certification as a performance based, outcomes driven approach to building code compliance.

Insights and outputs from the summit will directly

inform development of the HUD Breakthrough Pilot Handbook, a national technical assistance resource that will synthesize regional plans, pilot models, enabling conditions, and lessons learned. The handbook will be published by HUD and disseminated nationally to support other regions in launching and scaling offsite construction initiatives.

NIBS and MOD X will continue working with regional partners to translate summit outcomes into actionable guidance, helping communities across the country move from pilot projects to sustained, system level change.

## Project Spotlight

### NIBS Publishes AI Implementation Roadmap for NAVFAC



The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) in partnership with five industry experts in Artificial Intelligence (AI), data science, machine learning, performance management, and change enablement—has published Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command’s (NAVFAC) first AI Implementation Roadmap, establishing

a multi-year, phased strategy to integrate artificial intelligence across the planning, design, construction, and lifecycle management of naval facilities. The roadmap provides a structured path for transitioning from pilot efforts to scaled adoption, enabling more efficient project delivery, improved decision-making, and enhanced asset performance across the Navy’s infrastructure portfolio. A version of this roadmap and report on recommendations to operationalize AI is being developed for reuse across public owners broadly and will be made available on the NIBS website.

## Legislative Affairs

Congress has just returned from a two-week recess to an exceedingly long to-do list, and at the top is ending the partial government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), which began on February 14th and has now lasted more than 60 days. At issue are the tactics and procedures that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employed while conducting immigration enforcement actions earlier this year. Neither agency has been impacted by the lapse in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 funding, as they are operating off the \$170 billion, they received last year through the One Big Beautiful Bill.

Prior to the recess, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill that would fund all other DHS agencies—the Transportation Security Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Coast Guard, and the Secret Service—but not ICE or CBP, which would be funded for three years separately through a “skinny” reconciliation bill that could pass in the Senate with a simple majority vote. The House has not yet voted on the Senate bill. There is concern that members of Congress may want to attach everything, including the kitchen sink, to this “skinny” reconciliation bill, since many will see it as the last train out of town before facing voters in November.

Earlier this month, the Trump Administration released its FY2027 budget proposal request, officially kicking

off the annual appropriations process. The proposal included a 44% increase in defense spending with a 10% across-the-board cut to non-defense spending. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) budget will be slashed by 13%, with proposed eliminations of key programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. The Administration also cut the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s non-disaster grant programs by \$1.5 billion. There was a proposed \$7.7 increase for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which includes \$1.45 billion for construction projects, making it one of the few non-defense agencies to receive a significant increase.

Congress has shown that it will not automatically adopt the Administration’s budget proposal, so it is already moving full steam ahead with its own ambitious appropriations schedule. House Appropriations Committee Chair Tom Cole (R-Oklahoma) is aiming to get all 12 of the FY2027 Appropriation bills out of Committee by the end of June. Perhaps this will be the year that most of the bills get across the finish line before the end of the current fiscal year!

## NIBS Out and About

### SAME Europe Conference

In a focused effort to advance building science and facility resilience on a global scale, and George Guszczka, President & CEO and Shirley Albritton, SVP for Operations recently participated in the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Europe Tri-Services Regional Summit in Frankfurt, Germany. The March summit, themed around technical innovation and modernization, provided a critical platform for the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) to engage directly with military engineers, federal agencies, and industry innovators operating across the European theater.

These events are critical to building strong relationships with clients and partners and set the foundation

for NIBS to carry out our mission in Europe. By collaborating directly with public sector leaders and private industry experts, NIBS is able to deliver actionable, science-based solutions that support the critical infrastructure needs of the armed forces and allied partners abroad.



The partnerships forged in Frankfurt will enable NIBS to better support ongoing and future engineering challenges, ensuring that modern design, resilient planning, and alternative delivery methods meet the highest standards of performance and security. As NIBS continues to expand its international footprint, the technical insights and strategic alliances gained from the SAME Europe Summit will directly inform the many exciting future initiatives and engagements.

### NIBS Presents as buildingSMART International Summit in Porto, Portugal

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) presents at the 2026 buildingSMART International Summit in Porto, sharing the state of adoption within the U.S. on implementing openBIM standards to improve project delivery and asset management outcomes for asset owners.

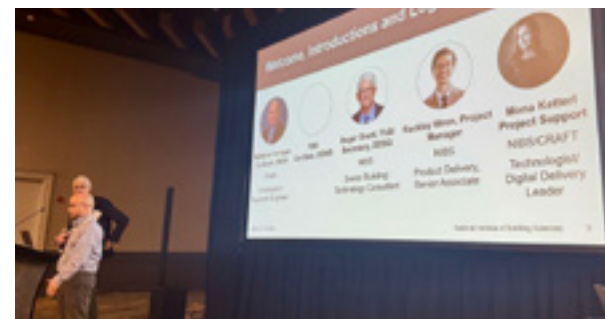
The session highlighted a structured, standards-driven process spanning use case development, requirements definition, data production, validation, and delivery that enables scalable,

interoperable information management across projects and portfolios. Drawing on federal and industry case studies, NIBS demonstrated how aligning people, process, technology, and information can accelerate adoption of open standards and unlock measurable value across the facility lifecycle.



### NIBS Hosts FHWA Digital Delivery Stakeholder Group Meeting #3 in Chicago

The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) supported the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in convening the third meeting of the Digital Delivery Stakeholder Group (DDSG) on March 19-20, 2026, in Chicago, Illinois, held in conjunction with the AASHTO GIS-T Conference at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place.



The hybrid in-person and virtual meeting brought together representatives from State Department of Transportations (DOT), AASHTO technical committees, pooled fund initiatives, and industry partners to advance the national coordination of digital delivery across

transportation infrastructure. Sessions spanned two days and covered AASHTO and buildingSMART USA updates, pooled fund progress on Building Information Modeling (BIM) for Bridges and BIM for Infrastructure, and a review of digital delivery roadmaps from FHWA and PennDOT.



Day Two featured a focused workshop on information management processes using the ISO 19650 standard, with state-level implementation case studies presented by Arizona DOT and Oklahoma DOT. Recordings, presentations, Mural collaboration links, and Mentimeter results from the meeting will be made available on the [DDSG Hub at nibs.org](https://www.nibs.org/ddsg).

### NIBS Joins as Co-Chair of Training Work-Group for SAME Alternate Construction Methods



The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) has been selected as Co-Chair of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Alternate Construction Methods Training Work Group, helping to lead national efforts to educate federal acquisition and program leaders on industrialized construction. In this role, NIBS will support alignment between government and industry, translate policy into actionable training, and drive the institutionalization

of industrialized construction practices across the full project lifecycle. The group is actively organizing education sessions across multiple venues to increase awareness and adoption of alternate construction methods in support of military modernization objectives.

### NIBS Attends SAME San Juan Industry Day

Kenneth Alexander, Cheryl Foley, and Sydney Mendes recently represented The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) at the 2026 Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) San Juan Industry Day. The team valued the opportunity to connect with government partners and industry leaders who are helping shape the region's future. We're excited to apply the insights gained and continue supporting meaningful, impactful work.



### Come See NIBS at SAME JETC!

NIBS staff and leadership will be attending the Society of American Military Engineers' (SAME) Joint Engineer Training Confereneec & Expo (JETC) this year in Portland, OR. The NIBS team—Shirley Albritton, Ken Alexander, Sara Barrett, and Jay Kline—looks forward to connecting with attendees throughout the conference.



Be sure to stop by and visit us at Booth #207 to learn more about our work and ongoing initiatives. We're also proud to have two NIBS speakers featured in the program: Jay Kline, Program Director of Digital Technology, and Sara Barrett, Engineering Project Manager, will both be speaking during the conference. We invite attendees to visit our booth and attend our sessions to hear from NIBS experts and continue the conversation. [Learn More.](#)

## NIBS in the News

### Retrofit Magazine

#### If Done Right, AI Can Reframe the Stewardship of the Built Environment to Be about People

The article underscores the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) as a central catalyst for advancing human-centered digital transformation in the built environment. Through the perspective of its Digital Technologies Program Director, Jay Kline, NIBS positions itself as a national leader connecting research, policy, and practical application to guide how AI can be responsibly and effectively integrated into buildings. The piece reflects NIBS' mission—established by Congress—to improve the safety, resilience, sustainability, and technological sophistication of infrastructure for the American people, while emphasizing its role in shaping standards, convening cross-sector experts, and helping industry leaders move beyond “smart” technologies toward wiser, purpose-driven digital environments that prioritize people and communities.

[Read More>>](#)

### HBSDealer

#### Building for what's coming: Jacksonville's construction crossroads

The article highlights the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) as a key convener and driver of national efforts to scale offsite construction as a solution to the U.S. housing crisis. NIBS is positioned as a strategic partner in advancing HUD's newly released report by coordinating extensive research, global knowledge exchange, and cross-sector collaboration involving more than 200 experts. Through its leadership, advocacy, and partnership with organizations such as MOD X, NIBS helps translate research into actionable policy and practice, including applying findings at the regional level and developing a Housing System Certification Program to reduce regulatory barriers.

By aligning government, industry, and academic stakeholders, NIBS reinforces its mission to enable innovation, strengthen market-driven solutions, and improve housing affordability, safety, and resilience for communities nationwide.

[Read More >>](#)

### CA FWD

#### California Can't Afford to Wait: The Fiscal Case for Sustained Resilience Investment

The article reinforces the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) as an authoritative source for understanding the economic value of disaster resilience and the costs of under-investment. By citing NIBS research showing that every dollar invested in mitigation can save up to \$13 in recovery costs, the piece grounds its argument for sustained resilience funding in credible, evidence-based analysis. NIBS' findings help quantify how climate risks translate into real

economic losses for households, governments, and insurers, strengthening the case for proactive investment. In this context, NIBS serves as a trusted national voice that informs policymakers, financial decision-makers, and stakeholders about the return on resilience and the urgency of aligning long-term funding strategies with the growing realities of climate risk.

[Read More >>](#)

## NIBS Events

### Facing the Heat: A Five-Part Webinar Series on Extreme Heat and the Built Environment

#### Grid-System Strategies for Resilient Cooling

April 30, 2026 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Rising electricity demand and intensifying heat are straining the U.S. electric grid, putting communities' cooling systems at risk. This webinar explores grid-level strategies to ensure reliable, resilient cooling during extreme heat.

Experts will discuss grid-enhancing technologies, demand-side solutions, and policy tools that help utilities and policymakers prepare for increased energy demand and protect indoor safety during heat events.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand current grid vulnerabilities and extreme heat risks.
- Explore technologies and demand-side strategies that strengthen grid resilience
- Examine policy tools utilities and policymakers can use to support resilient cooling.
- Learn from real-world examples of grid resilience in action.

[Register now.](#)

[Watch the other four parts of the series here!](#)

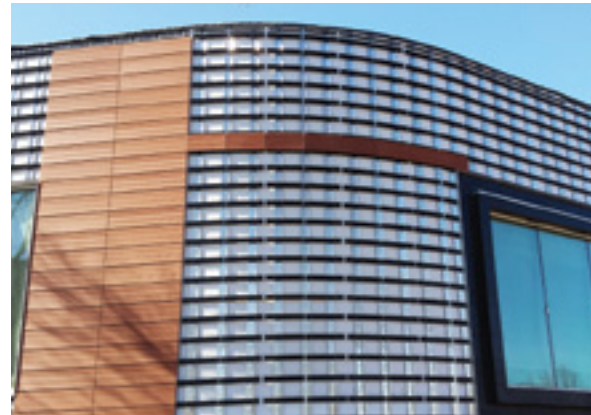
[Subscribe to NIBS' Event calendar.](#)

## CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER



### Strategies for High-Performance Below-Grade Waterproofing

Provides an expert-level analysis of below-grade waterproofing within the comprehensive framework of the high-performance building enclosure.



### Where Energy Efficiency Meets Life Safety

This presentation delivers a comprehensive look at the performance advantages of continuous insulation, with a special focus on polyisocyanurate (polyiso CI) solutions.



### The Basics of Coverboards

Covers how coverboards support the specialized requirements for rooftop solar, vegetative assemblies, ballasted systems and otherwise lightweight assemblies.



### Design Details That Make or Break Roof Installations

Attendees will have a better understanding of the requirements the roofing contractor must meet to provide the specified roofing system warranty, and long-term value to the owner.

# Save the Date

Join *Architectural Record* at  
Crown Hall, IIT | Chicago  
September 23, 2026



A day of CEU-accredited sessions  
focused on the future of  
responsible building.

[ARSUSTAINABILITY.COM](https://arsustainability.com)



Architectural  
Record



An evening celebrating  
women's design leadership,  
honoring the 2026 winners.

[ARWOMENINARCHITECTURE.COM](https://arwomeninarchitecture.com)

GTZ  
FORUM

October 5–6, 2026  
New York, NY

HOST SPONSOR



NYSERDA  
New York State Energy Research  
and Development Authority

Save the Date!



**SAME** MAY  
 Joint 19-21  
 Engineer 2026  
 Training  
 Conference & Expo PORTLAND  
 OREGON

# INNOVATE FORWARD

SAMEJETC.ORG

## REGISTER TODAY FOR MISSION ESSENTIAL TRAINING

JETC 2026 is the premier annual gathering of the military engineering community—bringing together uniformed engineers, government civilians, industry leaders, young professionals, innovators, partners, and subject matter experts for three days of collaboration, learning, and inspiration.

Experience JETC 2026! The only event of its kind and help shape the future of engineering services in support of the warfighter and national security.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 70+ Hours of Education & Training Sessions
- Executive Panel with the Engineering Service Chiefs
- Pre-Conference Workshops
- Exhibit Hall Featuring Leading A/E/C Companies
- And More!

### SCAN THE QR CODE



#SAMEJETC26: Innovate Forward!