

Sunday, May 3, 2026

4:30 PM EDT

3 HRS

Opening
Ceremonies

Opening Ceremonies

GITEC 2026 will kick off with an informal Welcome Reception at the Omni Hotel, giving attendees an opportunity to connect ahead of the main conference programming.

From 3:00–4:00 PM, select attendees will be invited to a private whiskey tasting, offering a relaxed setting for early networking. During this time, exhibitors will also arrive and set up, preparing their spaces for the conference days ahead.

The Welcome Reception will begin around 5:00 PM and is open to all registered attendees. Guests are encouraged to stop by, grab a drink, and reconnect with colleagues, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors in a casual environment before the conference officially begins.

Monday, May 4, 2026

8 AM EDT
1 HR

Registration, Exhibition, and Breakfast

Pick up your badge, grab a cup of coffee, and get ready for GITEC 2026 to officially start!

9 AM EDT
15 MINS
Main Stage

Opening Remarks



Tom Temin
Master of Ceremonies
GITEC

9:15 AM EDT
20 MINS
Main Stage

Keynote Briefing



Pavan Pidugu
Chief Digital & Information Officer
U.S. Department of
Transportation

9:35 AM EDT
40 MINS
Main Stage

Leading Modernization at Scale: Strategy, Policy, and Efficiency in Federal IT



Dave Raley
Chief Digital Business Officer
U.S. Marine Corps Community Business



Ty Enmark
AVP, Government, Defense & Intelligence
Oracle



Manny Medrano
Director, Cyber Monitoring and Operations
U.S. Department of State

Federal IT modernization is increasingly defined by how well agencies align technology, policy, and mission outcomes. As expectations for security, data-driven decision-making, and service delivery grow, leaders must modernize legacy environments while improving efficiency, governance, and cross-agency collaboration. Success depends on clear executive leadership, disciplined prioritization, and a strategic approach that ties modernization investments to measurable impact.

Join this executive-level panel featuring senior government IT leaders for a strategic discussion on the decisions shaping federal IT modernization. Panelists will share leadership perspectives on enterprise transformation, policy alignment, risk management, and operational efficiency—offering lessons learned and insights into what effective modernization looks like at scale

10:35 AM EDT
20 MINS
Main Stage

Break in the Emerging Technology Showcase

10:55 AM EDT
30 MINS
Main Stage

Navigating the Cyber and AI Landscape: A Leadership Chat



CDR Jonathan White
Cloud, Data & AI Branch Chief
U.S. Coast Guard (Pending Agency Approval)



Natalie Buda Smith
Director of Digital Strategy, OCIO
Library of Congress



Joanne Woytek
SEWP Program Manager
National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Howard Spira
Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer, and Chief AI Officer, Information Management and Technology
Export-Import Bank of the United States (Pending Agency Approval)



Jeffrey Castro
AI & Data Program Analyst, Intelligent Robotics and Autonomous Systems (IRAS), AI – Data – Autonomy - Networking, CD&I, CDD/OPS
U.S. Marine Corps (Pending Agency Approval)



Cherilyn Pascoe
Director, National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence
National Institute of Standards and Technology

Cyber and AI initiatives demand strong leadership to ensure security, accountability, and mission alignment. In this fireside chat, senior leaders discuss how they are navigating emerging risks, governing AI use, and building resilient digital environments.

11:25 AM EDT
35 MINS
Main Stage

Innovation, Leadership, and the Federal IT Mission



Yixin Sun
Assistant Professor
University of Virginia



C. Melonie Cannon
Chief Information Officer, Diplomatic Security
U.S. Department of State (Pending Agency Approval)

Leaders from across federal IT gather to exchange insights on leadership, innovation, and advancing agency missions through technology. Featuring women leaders from across the federal government, the discussion highlights their experiences leading IT initiatives and teams across agencies, as leadership roles continue to evolve alongside emerging technologies and shifting mission priorities. The conversation will focus on leadership development, strategic decision-making, and approaches to leading teams through change in complex federal environments. Attendees will gain practical perspectives on effective leadership in government IT, including building resilient organizations, driving innovation, and delivering mission impact through strong, collaborative leadership.

12:15 PM EDT
15 MINS

Afternoon Keynote Briefing

12:30 PM EDT
15 MINS
Main Stage

GITEC 2026 Awards: Announcement

Celebrate the leaders and teams shaping the future of government technology as we announce the winners across all five GITEC Award categories, honoring innovation, impact, and excellence across the public sector.

12:50 PM EDT
1 HR

Lunch in Emerging Technology Showcase

1:50 PM EDT
55 MINS
Roundtable
Sessions 2

Building and Sustaining the Federal Workforce of the Future



COL Kris Saling

Technology Advisor, Office of the
Assistant Secretary of the Army
U.S. Army



Mark Gorak

Director of the Cyber Academic
Engagement Office and Principal
Director for Resources & Analysis,
Office of the Chief Information
Officer
**U.S. Department of War (Pending
Agency Approval)**



Anil Chaudhry

Senior Advisor, Artificial Intelligence
**U.S. Department of
Transportation**



Edward Graham

Managing Editor
Nextgov/FCW

Kicking off with remarks from Mark Gorak (DoW), this session will transition into an interactive roundtable discussion focused on the evolving challenges of recruiting and retaining top talent across the federal workforce.

Participants will exchange perspectives on innovative approaches to attracting highly skilled professionals while navigating systemic barriers such as complex hiring processes and competition with the private sector. The conversation will explore strategies for strengthening agencies' value propositions, leveraging data to understand workforce trends, and tailoring retention efforts to support a multi-generational workforce. Attendees will share insights on improving onboarding, increasing employee engagement, and fostering workplace cultures that support long-term career satisfaction across the federal enterprise.

1:50 PM EDT

1 HR

Roundtable
Sessions 1

Strengthening Cyber Defense with Threat Intelligence Roundtable



Rudolf Rojas

Information Technology
Management/Systems Analysis
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Raymond Romano

Deputy Assistant Director, Cyber
Threat and Investigations
U.S. Department of State
(Pending Agency Approval)



Col Travis Hartman

Chief Technology Officer, Army
Forces Command
U.S. Army (Former)



Dr. Justin Ubert

Chief, Cybersecurity & Operations
Division
**U.S. Department of
Transportation (Pending Agency
Approval)**



Rezaur Rahman

Chief Information Officer & Chief
Information Security Officer
**Advisory Council on Historic
Preservation (Pending Agency
Approval)**

Kicking off this breakout with remarks from Rezaur Rahman (ACHP), this session will transition into an interactive roundtable discussion among participants.

Against the backdrop of persistent cyber threats, organizations are continually challenged to identify and mitigate the risks most relevant to their missions. This conversation will bring attendees together to share perspectives on how threat intelligence is strengthening cybersecurity defenses across agencies. Participants will exchange insights on integrating threat intelligence into existing security frameworks, discuss the operational advantages agencies are seeing in practice, and explore emerging use cases that are expanding the value of intelligence-driven security strategies.

2:45 PM EDT
45 MINS
Roundtable
Sessions 2

Modernizing Federal Applications for Mission Agility and Scale Roundtable



Rick Miner

Deputy Assistant Chief Information Officer for Satellites
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (Pending Agency Approval)



Richard Dunwoodie

Acting Executive Assistant Director, Directorate of Operational Technology & Cyber Innovation
Naval Criminal Investigative Service (Pending Agency Approval)



Rayvn Manuel

Principal Application Developer & Architect, DevOps Engineer
National Museum of African American History & Culture, The Smithsonian Institution (Pending Agency Approval)



Ramesh Ramakrishnan

Enterprise Architect
Bureau of Diplomatic Technology, US Department of State

As federal agencies modernize their digital environments, application modernization has become a critical driver of mission agility, security, and operational efficiency. This roundtable will bring participants together to share experiences and perspectives on evolving legacy applications through cloud-native architectures, modular development, improved data integration, and automation.

Participants will discuss common challenges such as technical debt, interoperability, security, and workforce readiness, while exploring practical strategies for scaling modernization across complex federal environments. The conversation will also examine how emerging technologies, automation, and DevSecOps practices are reshaping the application lifecycle and enabling agencies to build more resilient, mission-ready applications.

2:50 PM EDT
40 MINS
Roundtable
Sessions 1

Quantum on the Horizon: Security, Strategy, and Federal IT Readiness Roundtable



Dr. Tina Brower-Thomas

Joint Appointee
Howard University & Brookhaven National Laboratory



Dr. Merrick Watchorn

Chief, Cyber & Quantum
U.S. Air Force



Daniel Buchholz

Red Cell Section Chief
U.S. Department of State (Pending Agency Approval)

Quantum technologies are poised to significantly impact federal IT modernization, reshaping how agencies think about security, resilience, and long-term infrastructure planning. This roundtable will bring participants together to discuss how agencies are beginning to assess the implications of advancing quantum capabilities for encryption, secure communications, and data protection.

Through an interactive exchange of perspectives, attendees will explore approaches to preparing for a post-quantum future, including the adoption of quantum-resistant strategies that align with Zero Trust principles. The discussion will focus on balancing immediate risk mitigation with forward-looking planning across mission systems and enterprise environments.

3:30 PM EDT

5 MINS

Closing Remarks

That's a wrap on our first day of sessions for GITEC 2026! Join us for our GITEC Awards reception at 4:30PM!

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

8 AM EDT
1 HR

Check-in and Breakfast

Check-in at the registration desk for our final day of GITEC 2026!

9:05 AM EDT
20 MINS
Main Stage

Keynote Briefing



Joshua Geiger
Director of Operations for National
Emergency Medicine
**U.S. Department of Veterans
Affairs**

9:25 AM EDT
20 MINS

Keynote Briefing



Robert Gaucher
Direct Reporting Portfolio Manager,
Submarine Forces
U.S. Navy (Invited)

9:45 AM EDT
30 MINS
Main Stage

IT Modernization Priorities for the Public Sector in 2026 and Beyond



Ankur Saini

Chief Product and Technology
Officer

**Office of the Chief Digital and
Information Officer, U.S.
Department of Transportation**

As federal agencies and public-sector organizations navigate accelerating technological change, IT modernization remains central to improving mission delivery, strengthening security, and enhancing workforce productivity. This panel will examine the priorities, challenges, and opportunities shaping modernization efforts in 2026—from advancing cloud adoption and data interoperability to integrating emerging technologies and updating legacy systems. Speakers will discuss practical strategies for driving sustainable digital transformation, optimizing resources, and building resilient, future-ready technology environments. Attendees will gain insights into the policies, partnerships, and implementation approaches that are redefining public-sector IT in the years ahead.

11 AM EDT
20 MINS

Keynote Briefing



Dr. Nikki Collier

Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of Justice
(Pending Agency Approval)

11:20 AM EDT
45 MINS
Main Stage

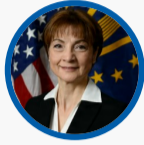
Securing Data and Operations in a Digital-First Government



Donald Coulter
Senior Science Advisor,
Cybersecurity, Science &
Technology Directorate
**U.S. Department of Homeland
Security (Pending Agency
Approval)**



Ryan Galluzzo
Digital Identity Program Lead for
the Applied Cybersecurity Division
NIST (Pending Agency Approval)



Carol Assi
Deputy Chief Information Officer
for Cybersecurity Chief Operations
Officer, Office of the Chief
Information Officer
**U.S. Department of War (Pending
Agency Approval)**

In an increasingly digital world, cybersecurity and data protection are essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring the resilience of government operations. From implementing advanced encryption and threat detection tools to fostering a culture of cyber awareness and inter-agency collaboration, the session will highlight practical approaches and emerging innovations that enhance data integrity and ensure the continuity of mission-critical services.

12:05 PM EDT
40 MINS
Main Stage

Integrating AI into Federal Systems: From Concept to Deployment



Landon Shaw
Senior Enterprise Architect,
Enterprise Operations Center,
Department of Technology Services
**Administrative Office of the U.S.
Courts**



Brian Mayer
Research Scientist, Sanghani Center
for Artificial Intelligence and Data
Analytics
Virginia Tech



Dr. Jim Chen
Professor, Cyber-enabled National
Security Strategies, Artificial
Intelligence, Cyber Operations,
College of Information and
Cyberspace
National Defense University



Edward Graham
Managing Editor
Nextgov/FCW

Implementing AI in the public sector involves navigating technical, ethical, and operational challenges. This session focuses on the journey from AI pilot programs to full-scale deployment in federal agencies to aid in modernization efforts. Panelists will share their experiences in developing frameworks and integrating AI with existing systems to deliver value while meeting operational requirements.

12:45 PM EDT
10 MINS

GITEC 2026 Closing Remarks