**VA SAMBUQ IT Marketplace Platform**

The Department of Veterans Affairs VA, Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) and SAMBUQ.com are rolling out an innovative IT shared services platform under a new agreement.

The agreement is being made under the technology transfer program called the VA OI&T Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) Program. Under the CRADA project, SAMBUQ.com will offer its Platform that enables businesses to communicate directly in real-time with other businesses for assisting VA with improved market research, identification of IT solutions & services and enhance IT vendor collaborations.

Historically, the decision-making process for organizations in need of technology solutions has been arduous and fragmented. Vendors present their services to organizations independently, and then it’s up to the organizations to run comparison analyses, make reference calls, and conduct research, which is often complex given the paucity of available online information. This process can take weeks, even months to complete.

SAMBUQ.com offers an efficient alternative, delivering a comprehensive picture of what a vendor offers and the perceived value derived by explorers. Sambuq is a virtual port where vendors dock and share their wares, allowing explorers to make more informed decisions. Sambuq helps companies bring to market new products & services and facilitates competition among vendors.

The objective of this CRADA is to create SAMBUQ VA Marketplace. The marketplace platform will enhance VA’s ability to identify and select the right IT solutions and contractors for its needs. This will help the current contractors to keep their solutions and services updated in order for VA to be informed and new vendors to market their solutions and services to the VA.

The platform will help VA retain knowledge assets and historical records and enable VA to discover detailed, targeted research in specific areas to glean better understanding of IT technologies, providers, and markets. The platform will help VA make informed decisions on future VA IT strategies. The CRADA will help pilot the SAMBUQ.com platform that then can be extended and shared with other Federal agencies.

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**VA Central Office**

**Office of Information & Technology (OI&T)**

**Cooperative Research and Development Program (CRADA)**

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