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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**NCG Contributes to NIST
Development of a Cybersecurity Framework**

Portland, Maine, September 14, 2013 – Northcross Group (NCG) is a contributing member of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) efforts to develop a cyber security framework for the entire range of critical infrastructure sectors as identified by the Department of Homeland Security (<http://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors>). NIST took on this effort as directed under Executive Order 13636 – Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/executive-order-improving-critical-infrastructure-cybersecurity>).

As part of the development initiative, NIST has established workshops to review drafts and work input. NCG presented and participated in the most recent workshop in Dallas, Texas, September 11-13, 2013. Christopher Bender, President of Northcross Group (NCG), and Dave Wininger, Chief Technology Officer joined industry representatives and security experts to work through the final draft materials for the initial version of the Cybersecurity Framework.

“The range of industries that are critical to our security, economy, and general way of life are diverse but they all share a need to protect themselves from a variety of cybersecurity threats. The concept of leveraging lessons learned and best practices from the information security world to developing a repeatable framework that can be tailored for a variety of organizations and industries is imperative. Cyber threats are not isolated to any particular industry or size standard. Apart from regulatory requirements, everyone—people and businesses—not to be aware and take proactive steps to protect our data and information resources,” said Christopher Bende, NCG President. “The NCG Team has had opportunity to build security programs from the ground up in the government and private sector. We are very pleased to see NIST taking on this challenge and are privileged to support the development of the Cybersecurity Framework. “

The three day workshop held at the University of Texas at Dallas brought together industry executives to provide direct feedback on the draft of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework. The NIST Cybersecurity Framework comes in direct response to the President’s Executive Order 13636, Improving Critical

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Infrastructure Cybersecurity. The President asks that NIST “/.../lead the development of a framework to reduce cyber risks to critical infrastructure (the "Cybersecurity Framework").” Composed of industry security standards, best practices, and guidelines, the Cybersecurity Framework facilitates cost-effective cyber risk management.

Workshop participants provided input for the guidance, implementation, and governance of the Cybersecurity Framework draft. Mr. Bender and Mr. Wininger contributed their operational, technical, and policy expertise in cybersecurity to enhance the efficacy of the final Cybersecurity Framework iteration. Mr. Bender and Mr. Wininger are dedicated to imparting Northcross Group’s commitment to sustained cybersecurity protection for critical infrastructure.

The final version of the Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity will be released by NIST in February 2014. Additional information on the Cybersecurity Framework, including its full version, can be found by visiting: www.nist.gov/cyberframework/index.cfm

The full President’s Executive Order—Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity can be found here: www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/executive-order-improving-critical-infrastructure-cybersecurity

Northcross Group (NCG) is an integration and security firm with offices in Portland, Maine and Arlington, Virginia. NCG delivers highly complex initiatives bridging between technology and business to maximize ROI, ensure security, and compliance in highly regulated environments. NCG provides system and security services in the public and private sectors including healthcare, financial services, energy, and manufacturing. For more information about NCG, please visit www.northcrossgroup.com.

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