NOVA AWARD NOMINATION FORM
Sheet 2 Innovation Description

What is the Innovation?

DrChecks[SM] is a web-based design review tool that was developed in the late 1990s to explore the practicality of using the World-Wide-Web to foster the collaboration between project development business partners. At the time of its development, it was not clear that the Internet could support enterprise wide information exchange. The proven ability of this innovation to both reduce the time necessary to conduct design reviews and reduce the person-hours to accomplish design reviews has lead to its wide acceptance and the emergence of DrChecks[SM] as a standard federal approach to design review. Since the issue of identification and resolution process in design review is similar to that employed by bidding and construction, the DrChecks[SM] innovation has served as the catalyst for the development of a suite of complementary tools to support a wide range of project delivery business processes which are co-located with DrChecks[SM] on www.projnet.org.

Why it is Innovative?

First, DrChecks[SM] is located on the PROJect extraNET (ProjNet[SM]) which is a common accessible area on the Internet that all business partners can easily access to both identify and resolve project design issues. Second, DrChecks[SM] provides an agreed-upon structured business process to replace the various ad-hoc approaches used by various project development teams. This is especially important because of the dynamic nature of project teams and the variety of design review approaches implemented by different project managers. The Architect/Engineering/Construction (A/E/C) community is a strong proponent of this innovation as it offers a "known" business process across various Federal and State agencies. Third, DrChecks[SM] is provided as a service paid for the project owner. There is no "per seat" fee and all business partners can use the application and Call Center support for free. Since it is Internet-based, there is no firm IT system impact beyond providing Internet access. Fourth, DrChecks[SM] is user driven. Guidance is provided by the Government to Business Committee of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS). All users are members of this committee, which provided development guidance to the nominees. Fifth, DrChecks[SM] is now a national resource as a repository of over 2 million design review comments that can be used to analyze the various phases of the project delivery process. Currently there are over 30,000 registered users, of whom approximately 50% are not agency employees but are commercial business partners and their subcontractors.

What it has changed or replaced?

Prior to DrChecks[SM] , the design review process was an unstructured and time consuming series of ill defined task that were inconsistently applied between different projects within federal and state agencies and also across agencies. Design comments were either lost or ignored which resulted in costly change orders during construction.

The adoption rate of DrChecks[SM] has been significant. Presently seven Federal Agencies have adopted DrChecks[SM] as their design review methodology: US Army Corps of Engineers, Overseas Building Operations of the Department of State, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, General Service Administration, Department of Veteran Affairs, and the US Military Academy at West Point. Three state agencies have also adopted DrChecks[SM]: South Florida Water Management District, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Office of General Services, State of New York. A/E/C firms have been suggesting to their federal clients that they should also adopt DrChecks[SM].

Were and when did it originate?

The primary responsible nominees on Sheet 1 developed an initial version of DrChecks[SM] at the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory in 1996 to assist the Corps of Engineers design review process. It soon became apparent that problems in performing design reviews were not limited to the Corps of Engineers and soon multiple agencies approached the nominees for access to DrChecks[SM]. Since DrChecks[SM] is now fast becoming a de facto federal standard business process, the nominees typically receive several inquiries per week from non-using agencies. Currently, the nominees are managing a $2.4M program to support these diverse users.

NOVA AWARD NOMINATION FORM
Sheet 3 Innovation Illustration

DrChecks℠ Design Review Process

| Deliverables Received | → | Distribute drawings or docs for review | → | Review Kick Off (determine Validity of review) |

| Reviewers Evaluate Appropriateness Of all Comments In their discipline | Open Review For Evaluation And Notify Contractor | Close review For Evaluation And Open for Backcheck | Reconfirm Travel or Teleconf Requirement | Prepare Final Design Resolution Memo |

| Review Collected In Database | Review Coordination Meeting | Contractor Responds On-line to Comments | Reviewers Backcheck "Open" Issues | Resolution Meeting (Close all Review Issues) |

| Day1- 3 | Day 4-13 | Day 14-15 | Day 16-25 | Day 26-27 | Day 28-29 |

Identification of Issues   **Resolution of Issues**

Key Discussions Between Technical Counterparts

Legend:
- = Key Process, Ownership Owner
- = Key Process, Ownership A/E or Contractor
- = Support Function/Result