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Contact:

Chelsea Legendre

703-883-9000 ext.134

clegendre@meritalk.com

**INDUSTRY ADVOCACY GROUP CALLS ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TO FIX FEDRAMP**

Without Overhaul of Process to Approve Cloud Vendors, Government Won't Realize Promise of Cloud Computing

Washington, D.C., Jan. 25, 2016 – [FedRAMP Fast Forward](#), a Federal IT industry advocacy group, today published a six-step plan, Fix FedRAMP. The plan, based on seven months of discourse, working groups, and collaboration among Cloud Service Providers (CSPs), Third-Party Assessment Organizations (3PAOs), Federal agencies, and the Hill, is designed to enhance the value of FedRAMP as a “do-once-use-many” cloud security certification process for government cloud adoption and importantly, to improve the process for CSPs to obtain FedRAMP Authority To Operate (ATO). The paper focuses on enhancing FedRAMP transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness.

According to Tony Scott, the Federal Chief Information Officer, the Federal government today spends 80 percent of its \$80 billion IT budget to maintain outdated, legacy, duplicative systems. The transition to cloud computing is critical to breaking Uncle Sam’s legacy addiction – it has huge potential to introduce new flexibility, improve security, and save money. But five years after the FedRAMP program launched with the goal of standardizing the government’s approach to assessing and authorizing CSPs, the process of gaining approval to operate cloud services for Federal agencies is fundamentally broken.

Two years ago, the prevailing wisdom held that the time and cost for industry to obtain a FedRAMP ATO was nine months and \$250,000. Today, those figures are much higher – two years and \$4 million to \$5 million, according to the [Cloud Computing Caucus](#) Annual Report. Both government agencies and CSPs have voiced concerns about the efficiency of the process, as well as its lack of transparency. Both agencies and vendors lack information they need to make educated decisions. CSPs are blind to their status in the approval process and what they need to do to move forward, and agencies lack insight into where authorized cloud solutions are operating.

It is time for industry and government to band together to help change the trajectory of FedRAMP. To that end, the Fix FedRAMP plan calls for the following:

- Normalize the certification process. CSPs can take several routes to an ATO, and not all are seen as equal, which fundamentally undermines the value proposition of the FedRAMP program
- Increase transparency about the approval process, what it takes to gain approval, and the time and cost involved
- Harmonize security standards, so that CSPs can meet some FedRAMP requirements through compliance with existing international and privacy standards
- Reduce the cost of continuous monitoring for CSPs that have achieved an ATO
- Enable CSPs to upgrade their cloud environments while remaining compliant with FedRAMP requirements
- Help CSPs map their FedRAMP compliance to Department of Defense (DoD) security requirements, rather than forcing them to start over again to obtain the ability to provide cloud services to DoD

“For Uncle Sam to break with the expensive and dysfunctional legacy addiction, we need a FedRAMP Fix,” said Steve O’Keeffe, founder, MeriTalk. “Fix the program or it’ll fall under its own weight. We can’t afford to wait – it’s time for action on FedRAMP 2.0.”

The Fix FedRAMP plan is the focus of the Cloud Computing Caucus Advisory Group meeting March 3 on Capitol Hill. Join the discourse on how to get FedRAMP back on track, from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building Gold Room, No. 2168.

About FedRAMP Fast Forward

FedRAMP Fast Forward is a not-for-profit industry advocacy group created to provide perspective from Federal IT providers to support, inform, and accelerate FedRAMP and broader cloud adoption across government. For more information, visit www.fedrampfastforward.org.