



PTAC Client Success: Protocol Networks

Protocol Networks is an all-inclusive IT consulting firm based in Johnston, RI, focused on providing technical and strategic solutions, and excellent customer service.

When Protocol Networks was founded in 2000, one of their core missions was to provide unbiased professional IT consulting services and expertise to their clients, independent of any hardware or software vendors. Rather than focus on profit, their client-centric model assures clients that the solutions presented to them are the very best for their business requirements and complement core business strategies.

"Protocol Networks began implementing a government contract strategy in early 2017 about the same time we became a RI PTAC client. We realized that we needed to understand the liabilities and risk associated with individual solicitations and to get a larger picture of the government contracts market.

Recently we bid to provide Hanscom Air Force Base cabling hardware and installation services for a fiber optics upgrade to one of their buildings. The project solicitation period had a short lead time for response and provided no opportunity for a site visit prior to response. [Read more...](#)

Doing Business with the State of Rhode Island

Please join RI PTAC, the RI Division of Purchasing, and the RI Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO) for a session on "Doing Business with the State of Rhode Island." Topics to be covered include: navigating the purchasing website, understanding Master Price Agreements (MPAs) and the continuous recruitment process.

In addition, ODEO will talk about the bidding process and how Minority-Owned Business Enterprise and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation can earn a bidder extra points. To register go to: <https://riptac.ecenterdirect.com/events>

Update your NAICS codes

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) updated its Table of Small Business Size Standards adopting the Office of Management and Budget's 2017 revision of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2017 Revision) effective October 1, 2017.

As in previous revisions, the NAICS 2017 Revision created new [NAICS Codes](#) which were not in NAICS 2012. It also revised, deleted, or consolidated numerous NAICS industry definitions and codes from NAICS 2012. The NAICS 2017 Revision impacted about 30 six-digit NAICS industry definitions and codes from NAICS 2012.

Log-in to the System for Award Management (SAM) to check your NAICS codes and update your profile. **SAM is an official website of the U.S. government. There is NO FEE to register, update or maintain your SAM registration.** To update your registration, follow these instructions:

1. Go to www.sam.gov and log in.

2. Select Entity Registrations from the sub-navigation menu on the My SAM page.
3. Select Existing Entity Registrations from the Entity Registrations menu.
4. Select the entity you want to update from the Entity List, or search for the entity, then select it.
5. Select Update Entity from Registration Details for Complete Record.
6. Complete your registration update by following the on-screen instructions.
7. In the Assertions section, go to the page called Goods and Services.
8. Replace any invalid 2012 NAICS Codes with the corresponding 2017 NAICS Codes.
9. Continue to review your entire registration.
10. Select Submit at the very end. You will see a confirmation message on the screen when you submit your update.

If you have any questions or need assistance contact your PTAC counselor!

Section 809 Panel

The 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) created the Section 809 Panel which exists as an advisory panel on streamlining and codifying acquisition regulations. The goals of the Section 809 Panel are:

- Review the acquisition regulations applicable to the Department of Defense with a view toward streamlining and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the defense acquisition process and maintaining defense technology advantage.
- Establish and administer appropriate buyer and seller relationships in the procurement system.
- Improve the functioning of the acquisition system.
- Ensure the continuing financial and ethical integrity of defense procurement programs.
- Protect the best interests of the Department of Defense.
- Eliminate any regulations that are unnecessary for the purposes described.

The section 809 Panel wants the public's help in identifying the 50 worst regulations, laws, and policies that must go! They have created a [short questionnaire](#) for you to describe what regulation or policy frustrates you or slows you down and specifically how it gets in the way.

Rhode Island Defense Suppliers: Are you Cybersecurity Ready?

If you are a manufacturer who holds DoD contractors or subcontracts and you are not NIST 800-171 compliant by the December 31, 2017 deadline, you risk losing federal contracts.

Due to increased concerns about cyber attacks, any manufacturer, either an OEM or tiered supplier, contractually doing business with the Department of Defense (DoD), General Services Administration (GSA) or NASA must be compliant with defined cybersecurity requirements no later than December 31, 2017.

Join Polaris MEP on November 9th in Providence to learn about DFARS (NIST Special Publication 800-171), understand its cybersecurity requirements and the impact to your company. [Register here.](#)

Cybersecurity Resources

We have compiled a list of local companies that can assist small businesses with NIST 800-171 compliance assessment and implementation. We have also included the DFARS Cybersecurity handbook. This handbook is designed to help you complete a self-assessment of your cyber-security plan and to help you reach compliance. Check the [Cyber Resources Section](#) on our website.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

Doing Business with the State of Rhode Island - November 3, 2017

Register at : <https://riptac.ecenterdirect.com/events>

[Contact Us](#)