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## Cyber Security Conference

Join RI PTAC, Polaris MEP, and SENEDIA on Tuesday, September 19th at the Crowne Plaza-Warwick for a DFARS Cybersecurity Conference!

Our presenter will be Patricia Toth from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Patricia is a Computer Scientist in the Computer Security Division at NIST and one of the architects of the NIST SP 800-171 Standard. She will present an overview of the technical requirements and what it takes to become compliant. Take a look at the video in the next section for an overview.

To register for this event please visit <http://polarismep.org/events/dfars-cybersecurity-awareness-conference/>.

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## Cyber Security Compliance Overview



NIST Compliance Video

Are you ready for the December 31st deadline for cyber security compliance? We know there are many small businesses out there who are still unaware of the cyber controls that must be put into place in order to be in compliance.

Compliance is required for doing business with the federal government, as well as with prime contractors, particularly on Department of Defense contracts. Many contracts already have cyber compliance clauses built in! This video is a short overview of what needs to be done before the December deadline.

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## Proposal Writing Tips

Your company spends a considerable amount of time preparing proposals so you want to make sure you are submitting the best quality work. Here are some tips to help you avoid common proposal writing downfalls:

- Manage your time - Do not wait until the eleventh hour to submit your proposal, there are a number of reasons your submission can be considered late whether it is your fault or not. Your proposal will not be accepted if it is considered late!
  - Follow the RFP requirements - If an RFP requires a specific font or format, use that font or format. Do not deviate from the requirements just because a different style makes more sense or looks better to you. Your proposal may be rejected for a variety of reasons and not following the requirements is one of them.
  - Always have a backup - What would happen if the computer you wrote the proposal on crashes, your printer quits or the postal service loses your package? Keeping copies of your completed proposal in multiple locations helps reduce the likelihood of disaster stopping you from submitting. It's always better to be safe than sorry.
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## Bidmatch Workshop Coming Soon

Are you using your free PTAC Bidmatch account to its fullest potential or do you let the postings pile up in your inbox? Your PTAC counselor has the ability to see when companies are checking their Bidmatch. Since we see many clients who are not accessing Bidmatch regularly, let us help you!

Check the emails you are receiving from Bidmatch. Are they relevant to your business? If not come up with a list of keywords that describe precisely what your business does. Avoid vague or broad language. Send this list to your counselor and they will help you update your Bidmatch account.

We know that there are a number of reasons your Bidmatch goes unused so we will be holding a workshop to address common questions about the service and give tips on how to better customize it for your company.

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## Calling All Construction, Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Firms!

The US Coast Guard and the US Army Corps of Engineers are looking for construction, architecture, engineering, and environmental firms to perform work on various projects in New England. The RI PTAC will host a session on October 3, 2017 that will give an overview of what each agency is looking for during the upcoming year. To register for this session, please visit <https://riptac.ecenterdirect.com/events>.

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## Small Business Administration Seeking Feedback on Regulations

On August 15, 2017, the US Small Business Administration (SBA) released a request for information ("RFI") seeking input from the public as to which SBA regulations should be repealed, replaced, or modified because they are obsolete, unnecessary, ineffective, or burdensome. Comments are required on or before October 15, 2017.

The RFI notes that federal agencies have an ongoing responsibility to ensure that the regulations they issue do not have an adverse economic impact. One of SBA's primary objectives is to continue to promote economic growth, innovation, and job creation in the small business sector, and to ensure that disaster survivors have the clear policy and procedural guidance needed to quickly obtain financial assistance to rebuild their lives. Those responding to SBA's request for feedback are encouraged to keep these objectives in mind. [Click here](#) for more information, including instructions on how to submit comments.

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### Upcoming Events and Workshops

Basic Proposal Prep - September 12, 2017  
DCAA Compliance - September 26, 2017  
Doing Business with USCG/USACE - October 3, 2017

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

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