

Rhode Island PTAC



Matchmaker

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in our DoD Northeast Regional Council Matchmaker on March 23rd! The event brought together over 40 prime contractors and government agencies and more than 200 small businesses to participate in over 1,400 one-on-one meetings.

For anyone that did not attend the Matchmaker but is still interested in making contacts with prime contractors or government agency staff, there are still opportunities for outreach. To discuss potential government contracting opportunities, please contact your PTAC counselor.

Federal Certifications - Using the Correct Portal

The US Small Business Administration (SBA) has created a new portal to support their government contracting programs. The certify.sba.gov portal allows you to create a login, enter certification applications and manage your SBA program information. Currently, only the Women Owned Small Business (WOSB) program and the new Mentor-Protege program are on the new portal. If you had previously uploaded documents through the General Login System (GLS) for the WOSB program, the documents have been migrated for you.

The 8a Business Development Program, HUBzone Program and other SBA programs continue to be on the GLS. The migration of those programs is scheduled as follows:

- 8(a) Business Development Program (Winter 2017)
- HUBZone Program (Spring 2017), and
- Dynamic Small Business Search (DSBS) (Summer 2017).

If you have questions about any of the programs or you are unable to locate your documents, please [contact your PTAC counselor](#).

Why You Should Always Ask for a Debriefing

Debriefings afford offerors on a competitive solicitation an explanation of the evaluation process, an assessment of their proposal in relation to the evaluation criteria, a general understanding of the basis of the award decision, and the rationale for exclusion from the competition.

Under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), agencies are required to debrief unsuccessful offerors upon written request to help vendors better understand the weaknesses in their proposals so that they can make stronger offers on future proposals. Much of the information offered in a debriefing is the same information vendors seek when they file a protest. Through the use of debriefings the number of protests can be reduced leading to more efficient and successful interactions between vendors and the federal government. For advice and guidance on the debriefing process, contact your PTAC counselor!

Procurement Fraud Prevention Act

Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) will introduce the *Procurement Fraud Prevention Act*, a bill to help protect small business contractors from aggressive and even fraudulent consultants. Small businesses that register in GSA's federal contracting database, the System for Award Management (SAM), are often contacted by vendors who may impersonate SAM employees and attempt to mislead businesses into paying high sums for registration and procurement counseling services. These consultants do provide advice to small businesses, but for a fee; however, businesses are already entitled to these services for free through federal programs including Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) and Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs).

This bill would require GSA (SAM) to notify all registrants of available free federal assistance, to reduce their vulnerability to fraudulent claims. GSA would have to include information about PTACs, SBA programs, and other free services in the emails it already sends to registrants, in order to ensure that small businesses understand their affordable options and do not fall prey to scams.

Registering and updating your SAM account is free and is done on sam.gov. If you need help updating your account or you are unsure if you have been contacted by one of these scams, contact your PTAC counselor to verify the legitimacy of emails or phone calls.

Seaport-e Council Meeting and Industry Reverse Matchmaker

The **Seaport-e Government/Industry Council Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, May 10th 2017 in the Building 80 Gymnasium at NUWCDIVNPT, Newport RI from 9:00-11:00 a.m. These meetings are as a means of facilitating and encouraging communications between the NUWCDIVNPT Contracts Department and industry.

Questions must be submitted in advance to allow time to research, as necessary, and provide adequate responses. Questions for the council should be submitted no later than the close of business on April 28th. Please submit questions, along with Name, Company, Phone Number and E-mail address to Ms. Laura Deady at laura.deady@mikelinc.com.

The council meeting will be immediately followed by the 3rd annual Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport (NUWCDIVNPT) "Reverse Matchmaker" highlighting small businesses.

The intent of this event is to provide a forum for small businesses to meet with large businesses, as well as other small businesses, for partnering opportunities, and to meet with NUWCDIVNPT Technical Departments.

Interested businesses, both large and small, **MUST** pre-register by e-mail to Stephen.g.stewart@navy.mil **No Later Than 1 May 2017**. Please provide the individual's name, company, phone and e-mail address, and if a small business, provide the NAICS Code(s) they support that qualify them as a small business. There is no cost for attending and presenting at the event, however, registration is required.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

World Trade Day, Bryant University, May 24, 2017

Register at : <http://my.bryant.edu/portal/world-trade-day/>

Contact Us