



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

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Training @ a Glance

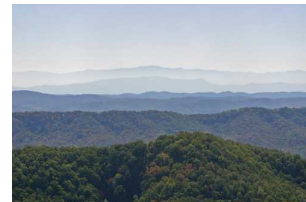
WAWf Workflow 2020 Online Webinar
 March 17th, 10 AM to 12 PM
[DETAILS](#)

Boots 2 Business Reboot

March 2020

State of the PTAC - March 2020

By James Gerraughty, PTAC Program Manager



We had a great sampling of our client success stories in the February issue. I am really proud to be working with a team that takes service to our clients so seriously! We have a variety of upcoming events and government contracting news to share with you.

First, please review our training opportunities that are coming up in March. There is a mix of face-to-face/classroom training and online webinar training. For an up-to-date list at any time, please [visit our event page](#) and you can search by date and location between our 3 centers.

Second, we have some updates below on Cybersecurity and the FPDS move to its new home on beta.sam.gov. The move of FBO last year is still having repercussions on the contracting community. PTACs (not just us) are keeping on top of this issue for our clients and other stakeholders.

March 19th, 8 AM to 4 PM
Altoona, PA
[DETAILS](#)

Susquehanna County Conservation District Contractor's Workshop
March 25th, 7:30 AM to 12 PM
Montrose, PA
[DETAILS](#)

Third, we have a broadband survey from the SAP&DC Planning & Development Dept. For those of you in the SAP&DC service area, plus two counties to the west of us, please take the 5-minute survey to give a good picture of broadband deployment and usage in our area.

If you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about something, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or [Email](#) us.

Upcoming Training Events with the PTAC and other PA PREP Partners

All events are free, unless otherwise noted. Events **do require registration**, so please visit the associated link for more information.

PTAC Events:

[WAWf Workflow 2020 Online Webinar](#)

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 10 AM to 12 PM
Online webinar with David Kern, Small Business Specialist at Tobyhanna Army Depot to educate attendees on the operation and changes to the Wide Area Workflow system (the main method for federal contractors to get paid).

[Boots 2 Business Reboot](#), Altoona, PA

Thursday, March 19, 2020, 8 AM to 4 PM
This Entrepreneurial education program, offered by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), provides an overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals.

[Susquehanna County Conservation District Contractors' Workshop](#), Montrose, PA

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 7:30 AM to 12 PM
An event hosted by the Conservation District, and discussing topics such as contracting with the commonwealth, prevailing wage, forestry/logging issues, and others.

For an up-to-date listing of PTAC events, [please visit](#) often!

SAP&DC Announces South-Central Broadband Study: Internet Needs Survey

Courtesy of Stacy LoCastro,
Grants Coordinator SAP&DC



Alleghenies Ahead, a six-county Regional Comprehensive Plan, identified broadband connectivity as a critical issue in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset Counties. As a result, the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAP&DC) Board of Directors appointed a Regional Broadband Taskforce to identify funding resources and deployment solutions to improve connectivity for residents and businesses in the region.

In 2019, SAP&DC was awarded a grant to coordinate a feasibility study for an eight-county region adding two additional counties, Fayette and Westmoreland, in order to inventory existing broadband assets, identify gaps in service, and to develop a plan for improving broadband services throughout the region. As part of the study, SAP&DC is conducting a survey to assess current levels of broadband service and needs.

The results of this important survey will help guide SAP&DC on how best to ensure that all citizens and businesses in the region have affordable and adequate access to broadband internet.

Participation in this survey is extremely important, as it will help support future grant applications that can fund improved broadband infrastructure.

Take the survey in less than 5 minutes by going to one of the follow websites:

- For Your Home: [click here](#)
- For Your Business: [click here](#)

For questions or more information:
broadband@sapdc.org or Stacy LoCastro at (814) 949-6510.

For more about this program, [please visit](#)

(Accessed 02/26/2020)

Pentagon Announces Final Version of Cyber Standards for Contractors
by Miriam Baksh

During an event where Defense Department officials looked to dispel myths about a plan to certify the cybersecurity of its contractors through third-party

audits, the department's head of acquisitions spoke to why the rollout of the program isn't expected to be done till 2026.

"We are doing this with what I would call irreversible momentum," Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Ellen Lord said, answering questions from reporters.

Some stakeholders have said the plan to subject companies in the defense industrial base to reviews by independent auditors-instead of allowing them to self-attest to security practices-is moving at break-neck speed. But Defense officials were pressed at the event to explain why it would take such a long time to fully implement the program.

"We're being realistic in terms of making sure we have pathfinder projects and then we implement it and learn, get the feedback, and go on," Lord said.

While the department plans to note CMMC requirements in requests for information starting late spring, specific security levels-ranging 1 through 5, described in a final version 1.0 of the model-won't be included in requests for proposals till the fall, when it is expected the related rule will be finalized in Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 2/25/2020)

Procurement Reporting Tool Is Moving to SAM But FPDS.gov Isn't Going Anywhere

by Aaron Boyd, Nextgov Sr. Editor

As the General Services Administration continues to develop a one-stop website for all federal contracting at beta.SAM.gov, the main reporting functions of the Federal Procurement Data System, or FPDS, will be added to the site in March. However, the current FPDS website, fpds.gov, isn't going anywhere any time soon and is slated for an upgrade.

Several procurement websites and apps have already been migrated to beta.SAM.gov, including Wage Determination Online, or WDOL, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, or CFDA, and the government's main contract opportunities site Federal Business Opportunities, better known as FedBizOpps or FBO.

FPDS is next on deck, with the four main reporting functions-administrative, static, standard and ad hoc-prepped to migrate to SAM by March 16. But for the time being, fpds.gov will remain.

"All other functions-search, agency contract award data entry, data extracts-will remain at fpds.gov as the site is not retiring at this time," a GSA spokesperson told Nextgov.

That said, users will no longer be able to run any reports on fpds.gov.

"After March 16, 2020, all reporting functions that used to be available at FPDS will be available in the Data Bank at beta.SAM.gov only," the spokesperson confirmed. "There will be no more reporting functions available at FPDS after the transition."

GSA does not plan on changing most of the reporting functions moving over to Data Bank, though the ad hoc reports will get a number of improvements, including an increase in the number of rows per report, the number of years that can be searched simultaneously, and additional data fields and filters. The new site will also have a report builder wizard to walk users through the new process. [Keep Reading](#)

(Accessed 02/25/2020)

About Us

The PTAC at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC stands ready to support businesses in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.

Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the PTAC are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards.

Contact us today at The PTAC at SAP&DC to get started!

Email: ptac@sapdc.org

Phone: (814) 949-6500

Web: [PTAC @ SAP&DC](#)

SAP&DC | 814-949-6528 | jgerraughty@sapdc.org | <http://www.sapdc.org>
3 Sheraton Drive
Altoona, PA 16601

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SAP&DC, 3 Sheraton Drive, Altoona, PA 16601

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