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Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

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the PTAC - December 2020

*by James Gerraughty,
SAP&DC PTAC Program Manager*

This year has passed by in the weirdest way; I don't have much more to say than that. So, I'm going to list the upsides.

There are some silver linings to the COVID cloud for the PTAC, and they made themselves noticeable this year. I work with some great people here at SAP&DC, and the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier PTACs! We also have some great clients that continue to challenge our knowledge of federal, state, and local government contracting. We expanded our use of technology for not only work-from-home for our counselors, but for outreach and educational events. What are your silver linings through all this?

Our program year is coming to a close, but we are ramping up for next year. Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in December and beyond for our PTAC and PREP Partners. 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. We are planning some events involving the Federal Highway Administration, Packaging, and the perennial favorite, Cybersecurity updates (as that field changes on an almost daily basis).

As stated before, we are here to serve you! If you have any ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about government contracting, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or send us an [Email](#).

DoD Needs Simulations to Shorten Acquisition Timelines

By Mila Jasper

Members of the defense industry working on modeling and simulation should focus on building tools that can be used across multiple different functions in order to not only improve training, but accelerate acquisition and fielding timelines, according to a Defense Department official.

“Think about software that will allow us to support acquisition development, training of troops, and test all simultaneously,” Alan Shaffer, deputy undersecretary of Defense for acquisition and sustainment, said Monday. Modeling and simulation is used to train warfighters on virtual battlefields. Advancement in modeling and simulation technologies powered by digitization and open systems should enhance training from individual warfighters all the way up to the force level as well as revolutionize design, acquisition, sustainment and test, Shaffer said during the National Training and Simulation Association’s annual Interservice, Industry, Training, Simulation, and Education Conference.

“We are now seeing the evolution from single platform simulators and single purpose simulations to advanced multi-platform virtual systems,” Shaffer said. “But beyond that, there is also a strong convergence in modeling and simulation capabilities being driven by the technological revolution, and the digitization of the world, and the promise of open systems.”

Shaffer indicated the department’s recently restructured acquisition framework—which includes a new pathway dedicated specifically to software—creates the potential for faster development timelines, but modeling and simulation is needed to realize this potential. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 12/2/2020)

To Expand Broadband, States Should Figure Out Where It Isn't Available

By Kate Elizabeth Queram, Staff Correspondent, Route Fifty

States can begin to address inequitable access to broadband by improving coverage maps that detail where connections aren't available or are too slow, similar to a pilot program implemented in Georgia, the National Governors Association said in a [white paper](#) released this month.

"The collection of data on current broadband availability and provided service speeds is critical in prioritizing expansion efforts," the paper said. "This data is currently collected and mapped by the [Federal Communications Commission], but as the FCC acknowledges, the data collected ... is imperfect."

Lack of widespread, high-speed broadband has been a pain point for states across the country for years, but the problem has been highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has underscored the reality that many aspects of modern-day life, including commerce, health care, education and social activity, are dependent on connectivity. Layered across these uses are social, economic and geographic factors that limit equitable access," the report said. "The pandemic exacerbates disparities caused by the absence of reliable broadband, but the need for accessible and affordable broadband extends far beyond the current situation."

More than 18 million people lacked access to fixed broadband in the United States in 2018, according to data collected by the FCC. The vast majority—14 million—of those unconnected people live in rural areas, with an additional 1 million residing on tribal lands. Multiple studies have found that [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 12/02/2020)

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We here at the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier PTACs wish all of our clients and stakeholders a warm and happy holiday season! We also look forward to serving you in 2021!

Happy Holidays!

Gloria, Renee, Barb, Laurie, Ethan, and James

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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!

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