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From: SAP&DC <jgerraughty@sapdc.org>
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To: James F. Gerraughty
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Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the PTAC - September 2021

by James Gerraughty,
SAP&DC PTAC Program Manager



September is always a transitory month for me. I start seeing kids going back to school, even willingly sometimes, certain plants start to bloom, and the leaves start to change. It's also the time of year when we put our annual funding application in, so some (more) of my hairs turn to grey.

I take this time of the application to reflect on what the PTAC (and PTACs across the nation) have done, and what we can do better. With the support of this PTAC's staff, we've done a lot of things and helped around 280 clients! When companies answer and return our surveys, they are actually read and acted upon. We've gotten some good ideas not only for training workshops, but for other

initiatives. The government contracting world is changing on a daily basis, so the PTAC better change with it and inform its clients, right?

Training is a constant at the PTAC! Please review our training opportunities that are coming up later in June and beyond for our PTAC on [our events page](#). You can search by date and location between our 3 centers. We are planning some events involving the PA COSTARS program, SBA's PCR for PA, Cybersecurity/CMMC updates and news, and the 2nd iteration of our virtual matchmaker on December 7 & 8, 2021. Most of the events will be virtual, and we hope to see you there!

As stated before, we are here to serve you! If you have any questions about government contracting topics, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or by [Email](#).

Homeland Security Considering CMMC-like Compliance Effort

By Frank Konkell, Executive Editor, NextGov

The agency is inviting interested parties to weigh in on plans to ensure contractors follow best cyber hygiene practices.

The Department of Homeland Security will conduct a “pathfinder assessment” to determine a path forward regarding a new cybersecurity compliance program that shares similarities to the Defense Department’s Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification, or CMMC.

In a special notice published Aug. 10, the agency seeks input on its nascent effort to improve industry compliance with existing and future cyber-hygiene requirements. The notice is authored by DHS Chief Information Officer Eric Hysen and acting Chief Procurement Officer Paul Courtney, and follows several high-profile cyber events, including the SolarWinds hack and Colonial Pipeline attack.

“In light of recent events, DHS seeks to advance our process in assessing industry compliance with cyber hygiene clause requirements,” the notice states. “DHS has been closely monitoring the Department of Defense’s implementation of the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) program to identify lessons learned and best practices for consideration by DHS as we advance our process. Our end goal is to have a means of ensuring a contractor has key cybersecurity and cyber hygiene practices in place as a condition for contract award.” [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 8/17/2021)

FAR Update: Good Faith in Small Business Subcontracting

By Shane McCall, Managing Partner, Koprince McCall Pottroff LLC

For many contracts, large businesses must establish and have the government approve a subcontracting plan that details the goals and efforts the large prime contractor will take to award subcontracts to various types of small businesses. Well, how does the government hold large businesses accountable for these goals? The FAR will soon have a [final rule](#) addressing good faith efforts to comply with a small business subcontracting plan.

Back in late 2019, SBA [updated](#) its own rules on subcontracting plans to address. The SBA rules were intended to make it easier to hold large business prime contractors accountable for meeting the goals of their small business subcontracting plans. In line with [2017 NDAA](#), SBA updated its rules found [13 C.F.R. § 125.3\(d\)](#) so that it will be a material breach of a contract or subcontract if a contractor with a subcontracting plan fails to comply in good faith with the requirement to submit reports and cooperate with agencies to determine subcontracting plan compliance. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 9/02/2021)

Oak Ridge Nat’l Lab-Made Software Platform Digitally Twins All U.S. Buildings

By Brandi Vincent, Staff Correspondent, NextGov

Those involved aim to help improve nationwide decision-making about energy efficiency.

Researchers within the Energy Department’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory built a modeling software suite that uses publicly available data to provide specifics and enable people to fully visualize energy details about every one of America’s 129 million buildings.

That simulation tool—dubbed the Automatic Building Energy Modeling, or AutoBEM—was years in the making. Its creation stemmed in part from the Tennessee-based lab’s longstanding goal to generate digital twins for all of the nation’s structures. Those behind it aim to help home and business owners access thorough information needed to make more actionable decisions around boosting energy efficiency.

“A digital twin is a virtual model of a physical object or system,” Joshua New, a computer scientist and senior research and development staff member at ORNL told Nextgov on Thursday. “This is useful because [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 8/17/2021)
