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To: James F. Gerraughty
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Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the PTAC - January 2023
*by James Gerraughty,
PTAC Program Manager*



Happy New Year! No government shutdown on the radar, and a new name!

The Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) is now under the management of the Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP; enough abbreviations for you?) and has changed its name to APEX Accelerators. The 95+ centers, including the Southern Alleghenies PTAC and its two centers at North Central and Northern Tier, will be transitioning to the new name in the coming months! Please note, our mission and assistance **will not change**. We are still here to assist businesses within our 15-county service area with all things government contracting - Federal, State, local, and related subcontracting. What will be changing is our scope and resources will be increasing in order to do more for the businesses and communities we assist. So,

whether we are called a Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) or an APEX Accelerator, we continue to be here for you, our client, with all your government contracting needs. The new national website is:

<https://www.apexaccelerators.us/#/>.

A side note: Some of our members came up with a *backronym* for the "APEX" in APEX Accelerator: Acquisition and Procurement Excellence. I think I like it!

In the next few weeks, we're going to have various trainings, mostly online. One coming up in short order is a training on ITAR and ITAR compliance. It'll be on January 26, 2023 at 0900. It is being conducted by Bob Imbriani, and hosted jointly by our PTAC, er, Apex Accelerator and SAP&DC's International Trade Program. Free to attend, but you must register [here](#).

Please refer to the events calendar below. Furthermore, you can review and register for upcoming events on our [eCenter page](#).

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

Goodbye PTAC, Hello APEX Accelerators

By Stephanie Eills, Koprince McCall Pottroff LLC

The Department of Defense (DOD) and the Small Business Administration (SBA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Friday, December 2, 2022, in a bid to strengthen and expand small business development nationally. The most obvious immediate change is that the more than 90 Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC) will be renamed APEX Accelerators, and the DOD and SBA are hopeful that this rebranding will bring new life to the program, which provides free procurement assistance to small businesses that work with all levels of the government, whether federal, state, or local.

The SBA and DOD have worked together in the past, but the agencies are now expecting to collaborate more. The agencies will be working together closely to find ways to integrate training from each agency to benefit small business contractors, and plan to conduct one national event each year.

Formerly housed within the Defense Logistics Agency, [APEX Accelerators](#) will now be part of the DOD's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP). APEX Accelerators mission is to "serve as the axis for existing and new business to strengthen the defense industrial base by accelerating innovation, fostering ingenuity, and establishing resilient and diverse supply chains," but, the assistance is not solely for contractors working with the DOD.

APEX Accelerators can be very helpful for those companies that are just starting out in the federal contracting business, that are looking to expand their footprint, or that want

some free advice on business development. They can also provide referrals to many other resources out there. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 12/28/2022)

New National Broadband Map Offers Granular Look at Service and Gaps

By Kery Murakami, Senior Reporter, Route Fifty

The Federal Communications Commission on Friday released an initial draft of a national map showing in greater detail than ever before what locations in the country have broadband service.

The move is a major step toward making sure roughly \$42 billion to increase high-speed internet service that was included in last year's bipartisan infrastructure law goes to the places that need upgraded connections the most. The prior map used to distribute federal dollars has been criticized because of its lack of detail about service availability.

"What happened was that if there was even one location within a census block that was served, that counted the whole census block as served," and not eligible for funding, Elizabeth John, an associate partner at the consultancy McKinsey & Co., explained in an interview.

Congress ordered the FCC in 2020 to take a more granular approach. The new map that the agency came up with attempts to show whether or not every location in the country has service. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 12/28/2022)

About US

The PTAC/APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC/APEX Accelerator 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/APEX Accelerator are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC/APEX Accelerator 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/APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC to get started!

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