






**James F. Gerraughty**


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**From:** SAP&DC <jgerraughty+sapdc.org@ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** James F. Gerraughty  
**Subject:** APEX Accelerator Newsletter June 2023



**Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies**

**State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator - June 2023**  
*by James Gerraughty,  
APEX Accelerator (formerly PTAC) Program Manager*



One reporting quarter down, and 3 quarters to go. It's a little bit daunting when your program is one of the first 20 or so programs out of the gate in a new program, with new goals. The good news is that things are progressing nicely, minus a few reporting headaches that will be fixed. Aside from the reporting issues, I am happy to hear of (and work with) companies that took a break from government contracting coming back to work with us towards their goals.

Still working on the logo I mentioned last newsletter, by the way. I think we're on version 3 or 4 with our marketing team...

Regardless of reporting issues or versions of logos, the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerators are here to help with your government contracting concerns and issues. Our services are free, so give us a call or email.

In the next few weeks, we're going to have various training courses, some online, some face-to-face, on various topics related to government contracting. All of these events are free to attend, but you must register. 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](#). (That email address will likely change, but it will still get to us).

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### **Agencies issue rule to ban TikTok on contractor devices.**

By Edward Graham, Staff Reporter, Nextgov

The interim rule amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation to include a ban on the use of TikTok by government contractors and vendors.

Three federal agencies released an interim rule on Friday expanding the government's ban on popular video app TikTok to future contract solicitations, capping efforts by Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to limit the app's use across the government over national security concerns.

The rule — issued by the Defense Department, the General Services Administration and NASA — amends the Federal Acquisition Regulation “to implement the prohibition on having or using the social networking service TikTok or any successor application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Limited or an entity owned by ByteDance Limited.”

Contracting officers are directed to include the prohibition on TikTok “in solicitations issued on or after June 2.” Contract solicitations issued before the rule's effective date, but scheduled to be awarded after June 2, must be amended by July 3 to comply with the new rule. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 6/5/2023)

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### **Interior Wants a Fleet of Drones ‘On Call’ to Help With Wildfires, Other Emergencies**

By Aaron Boyd, Senior Editor, Nextgov

The department is awarding multiple spots on a \$7.2 million contract for unmanned aerial systems-as-a-service.

The Interior Department seeks access to fleets of drones on a moment's notice throughout the lower 48 states and—as with many government IT buys these days—is looking to purchase access to such a fleet as-a-service.

The department issued a solicitation for on call/call when needed unmanned aircraft systems—or UAS, better known as drones—to assist with wildfires, emergency response and search and rescues, among other tasks.

While the program will be used any time additional drone support is necessary, the primary use will be fighting wildfires, according to the request for proposals.

“UAS will supplement the manned fleet by providing the capability to operate during dense smoke/inversion situations,” the document states. “Infrared/thermal camera technology will be utilized to penetrate smoke and gather/disseminate information to increase strategic and tactical situational awareness.”

Operators will be on-call 14 hours a day, 365 days a year, including some holidays and weekends. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 6-5-2023)

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### **Lawmakers Want DHS to Assess National Security Risks of Doxing**

By Edward

Graham, Staff Reporter, Nextgov

Proposed legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to “evaluate risks posed to national security and civilian privacy” by the online release of individuals’ personal information.

Bipartisan House legislation introduced last week would require the Department of Homeland Security to “develop and disseminate a threat assessment regarding the use of cyber harassment, including doxing, by terrorists and foreign malicious actors.”

Introduced by Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz, D-Fla., and Don Bacon, R-Neb.—along with 26 co-sponsors—on May 18, the Doxing Threat Assessment Act would “evaluate risks posed to national security and civilian privacy” by targeted online harassment, including the digital release of individuals’ personal contact information and addresses.

“This legislation would direct the development and dissemination of a threat assessment of cyber harassment tactics, to both inform future policymaking and law enforcement, as well as prevent targeted attacks on community institutions and persecuted groups,” the lawmakers said in a press release. [Continue Reading](#)

(Accessed 6-5-2023)

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## 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!

Email: [ptac@sapdc.org](mailto:ptac@sapdc.org)

Phone: (814) 949-6500

Web: [APEXAccelerator@SAP&DC](mailto:APEXAccelerator@SAP&DC)

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



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

[Unsubscribe jgerraughty@sapdc.org](mailto:jgerraughty@sapdc.org)

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