



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator - April by James Gerraughty SAP&DC APEX Accelerator Program Manager



It's been a busy month since the last newsletter. We had our national association Spring conference in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the end of our transition year to DoD's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), and the last-minute adjustments on our funding for the upcoming year. All in a day's (well, month's) work for the APEX Accelerator.

I'm happy to report that we have received our funding notice for 2024, and we will continue our services to our 15-county service area in central PA. I want to thank the North Central, Northern Tier, and Southern Alleghenies commissions for supporting us, and Barb, Chris, Ethan, Gloria, Renee, Debbi, and Carrie for putting up with the (often last-minute) requests for changes.

If nothing else, our training will cast a larger net with topics. Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in April 2024 and beyond on our <a href="Moreover-ecente

Finally, 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. We'd love to hear from you!

Biden administration waives certain 'Build America' requirements for broadband By Kery Murakami, Senior Reporter, Route Fifty

Even with the waiver, though, the administration estimates that roughly 90% of funding for equipment will still be used to purchase U.S.-made products.

The federal government says it's OK for some components used in building out the nation's broadband network to come from other countries.

The waiver announced last week by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, addresses a key concern among states over requirements in the federal Build America, Buy America Act that infrastructure projects have to be built with products made in the U.S.

"I think we all generally support the goals of Build America, Buy America," said Christine Hallquist, executive director of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, referring to the desire to increase the number of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. But "the real issue," she said, is that not enough components used in the construction of broadband are currently made in America. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 4/02/2024)

Rebuilding the collapsed Baltimore bridge will be a 'FAR bigger challenge' By Daniel C. Vock, Senior Reporter, Route Fifty

While recent bridge replacements have been completed in a matter of weeks, this incident will be tougher to recover from and have wider impacts.

President Joe Biden promised Tuesday [26 MAR 2024] that the federal government would "move heaven and earth" to reopen the Port of Baltimore and rebuild the Francis Scott Key Bridge that collapsed earlier that morning. But the recovery promises to be far more challenging than those of other bridge collapses in recent years.

The steel trusses of the 47-year-old bridge came down in less than a minute early Tuesday morning after a container ship collided with a pier that supported the bridge. That debris is at the bottom of the Patapsco River, effectively blocking any other ships from crossing into the Baltimore **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 4/02/2024)

OHA Sustains Status Protest: Self-Proclaimed SDVOSB Awardee Not Certified by VetCert, Not Eligible For SBA's Grace Period, And Not Veteran Owned or Controlled

By Nicole Pottroff, Partner, Koprince McCall Pottroff LLC

In Mckenna Brytan Indus. LLC, SBA No. VSBC-334, 2023 (Feb. 8, 2024), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) sustained the Service-Disabled Small Business (SDVOSB) status protest of BTNG Enterprises, LLC (BTNG). In its decision, OHA reiterated the two current regulatory options for calling yourself an "SDVOSB" concern: the first, is having your SDVOSB application officially approved by the SBA and your company listed in the SBA's Veteran Small Business Certification Program (VetCert) data base; and the second, is having submitted your complete application to SBA through VetCert prior to December 31, 2023, and be currently waiting for approval or denial. Here, OHA was unable to conclude that BTNG had done either of those things—despite looking for evidence of eligibility from the SBA and from BTNG itself. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 4/02/2024)

About US

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

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the APEX Accelerator will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards. We will also coordinate assistance, if needed, with our PA PREP partners.

Contact us today at the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC to get

started!

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