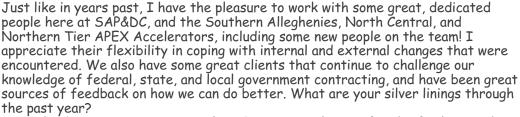## Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator – December 2024
by James Gerraughty
SAP&DC APEX Accelerator Program Manager

Hey! Time for Silver Linings, year 5!
The change I mentioned last year (our moving to OSBP) has had some challenges, but there are always productive conversations that come out those challenges, and even better, a plan for action. Still happy to report that the move didn't diminish any of our services to our clients and communities!

Just like in years past, I have the pleasure to work with some great, dedicated people here at SAP&DC, and the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier APEX Accelerators, including some new people on the team! I appreciate their flexibility in coping with internal and external changes that were encountered. We also have some great clients that continue to challenge our knowledge of federal, state, and local government contracting, and have been great sources of feedback on how we can do better. What are your silver linings through the past year?

Our calendar year is coming to a close, but we are planning for the final 3 months of our program year and the following program year. For upcoming outreach events, we have an ongoing DCAA monthly class, a cybersecurity monthly class (timely, considering the rule change!), and other events. All of these events are free to attend, but you need to register to get the login information. Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in January 2025 and beyond on our **eCenter page**. Stop back often, as the training events do update regularly!

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!

Microsoft and Atom Computing unveil 24-qubit quantum machine
By Alexandra Kelley, Staff Correspondent, Nextgov/FCW

A partnership between Microsoft and Atom Computing has leveraged high-performance computing to successfully process 24 logical qubits, or quantum bits, marking a milestone in the quest to bring fault-tolerant quantum computing to life.

Unveiled on Tuesday, Atom Computing's neutral atom hardware, in combination with Microsoft's qubit virtualization software, created a 24 logical qubit entangled state. Quantum entanglement is a foundational principle of quantum mechanics and is a crucial component for applications of quantum computing, such as cryptography and complex problem solving.

Microsoft and Atom Computing's announcement is significant because it tackles a major problem with quantum computation: noise. The disturbances caused by quantum noise can lead to errors in computation and can stem from a variety of variables in the system. By using chargeless neutral atoms, Microsoft said that it has been able to detect errors within qubits and correct them while computing, making outputs from a given quantum machine accurate. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 11/27/2024)

DIU Orders Software to Drive Massive Drone Swarms
By Patrick Tucker, Science & Technology Editor, Defense One

The software glue holding the Replicator effort together is beginning to harden. Three companies will
produce prototype software to control the massive drone swarms envisioned by the Replicator rapid-production initiative, the Defense Innovation Unit announced on Wednesday.

The awards to Anduril Industries, L3Harris Technologies, and Swarm Aero are part of the initiative's Autonomous Collaborative Teaming, or ACT, effort, which is seeking "automated coordination of swarms of hundreds or thousands of uncrewed assets across multiple domains," DIU said in a statement.

While Replicator hardware gets lots of attention, its software is every bit as important, Aditi Kumar, DIU's deputy director for strategy, policy, and national security partnerships, said earlier this month at a Defense One event. And, she said, DIU's short calendar for testing new drone integration platforms and software is another challenge.

"We are buying this capability independently of the hardware systems, and so we need to be able to have open architectures, government-owned architectures, to ensure that the software that we're bringing in is one being upgraded and then integrated into all manner of hardware systems, which may then require their own hardware fixes to enable that. That is something we're going to test out as we mature these integrated enablers. We are going to demonstrate their integration with the other systems in the Replicator portfolio across multiple domains, and we'll be able to test that out." **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 11/27/2024)

GAO saved the federal government $67.5 billion in fiscal 2024
By Sean Michael Newhouse, Staff Reporter, GovExec

Recommendations from the Government Accountability Office, an oversight entity that issues nonpartisan reports on how agencies can improve their operations, saved the federal government $67.5 billion in fiscal 2024. That's $76 for every dollar spent on the agency, according to a performance and accountability report that it published on Nov. 15.

"In [fiscal] 2025 and beyond, we look forward to continuing to fulfill our mission, serving the Congress and the public and improving the performance of the federal government on issues affecting the lives of all Americans," Comptroller General Gene L. Dodaro wrote in a letter at the start of the report.

By saving agencies $67.5 billion, GAO exceeded its goal to generate $50 billion in recorded financial benefits for fiscal 2024. However the four-year rate for implementing its past recommendations was 70%, which was a drop from fiscal 2023's rate of 75% and less than the watchdog's goal of 80%.

Still, GAO celebrated that it turned in 100% of its reports and products on time . **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 12/02/2024)

Tis the Season…

We here at the Southern Alleghenies, North Central, and Northern Tier APEX Accelerators wish all of our clients, communities, & stakeholders a warm and happy holiday season! We also look forward to serving you in 2025! Happy Holidays!

Gloria, Barb, Carrie, Ethan, and James

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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