SAP&DC | **nt** | **NORTH CENTRAL**
APEX ACCELERATORS

Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator – June 2025

by James Gerraughty
SAP&DC APEX Accelerator Program Manager

Not sure if Summer will be coming to central PA. I believe my furnace kicked on over the Memorial Day weekend. Oh well, if you don't like the weather in central PA, wait five minutes. Speaking of weather and weathering change, our program, as well as the 90+ other programs in the country, are slowly getting into our 2025 program year. We are looking forward to continued service to the area, and keep in touch for some upcoming changes!

Speaking of training, please review our training opportunities that are coming up in June 2025 (and beyond for our APEX Accelerator and PREP Partners, once our funding is confirmed). A big one is will be an Industrial Base Analysis and Sustainment (IBAS) on June 17 at 4 PM EDT, our continued monthly Cybersecurity webinars, and Commonwealth of PA contracting vehicles' training. You can review and register for upcoming events on our eCenter page, https://sancnt.ecenterdirect.com/ Stop back often, as the training events do pop up there pretty frequently!

If you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about a government contracting-related topic, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or apex@sapdc.org. We'd love to hear from you!

An 18th-century war power resurfaces in cyber policy talks

By David DiMofetta, Cybersecurity Reporter, Nextgov/FCW

An old-world legal concept is seeing renewed interest in the cybersecurity community as a tool to give the private sector more runway to combat hackers, though many agree it's more metaphor than mandate.

Can a centuries-old war power used for legalizing piracy be the key to U.S. cyber retaliation?

The Trump administration and industry partners have discussed whether privateering contracts — once used to deputize pirate ships — could offer inspiration for authorizing private sector hacking operations against China, though many say the 18th-century tool wouldn't cleanly map onto modern cyber warfare.

The authority stems from a historically maritime legal mechanism, known as a letter

of marque, that allowed privately owned ships to lawfully attack other vessels. Today, that authorization would aim to give the U.S. a better fighting chance against China and other nation-state adversaries. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 5/28/2025)

Rewrite of market research rules aims to give agencies more flexibility

By Nick Wakeman, Editor-in-Chief, Washington Technology

A new version of Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 10 removes prescriptive requirements and adds a "practitioner album" with the goal of streamlining research processes.

The Trump administration has released the market research portion of its rewrite of the Federal Acquisition Regulations, this time with a goal of reforming how acquisition officials research solutions and pricing for government contracts.

In the redo of FAR Part 10, the General Services Administration has released what it calls a "Practitioner Album" to help agencies streamline how they conduct market research. The rewrite is part of what the government is calling a "revolutionary FAR overhaul."

Jeffrey Koses, GSA's senior procurement executive, wrote in a Thursday memo and Friday LinkedIn post that the move aims to give acquisition officials greater flexibilities.

"The FAR no longer lists specific market research considerations or techniques that must be used," he said.

Acquisition teams can pick the method they see as best meeting their needs. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 5/28/2025)

Don't limit defense innovation by capping small-biz awards

By Robert Smith, Fmr Director, U.S. Navy SBIR/STTR Programs

A proposed change to the Small Business Innovation Research program would deprive the military of some of its best problem-solvers.

One of the federal government's most effective tools for solving the toughest technological challenges is at risk of being sabotaged by Congress.

I spent nearly four decades in the Navy, first as a helicopter pilot, and then 23 years as a civilian. For nearly a decade I oversaw the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, investing $650 million of a roughly $3.2 billion government-wide budget in the brightest ideas from the most innovative small businesses to support our sailors and Marines.

But proposed legislation from Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, to reauthorize what is widely regarded as "America's seed fund" would arbitrarily set a cap for awardees, potentially cutting out the most experienced and successful recipients. **Continue Reading**

(Accessed 5/28/2025)

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!

Email: **apex@sapdc.org**
Phone: (814) 949-6500
Web: **APEXAccelerator@SAP&DC**

SAP&DC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SAP&DC **|** 814-949-6528 **|** jgerraughty@sapdc.org **|** http://www.sapdc.org
3 Sheraton Drive
Altoona, PA 16601