On behalf of the OSDBU, I am pleased to share these quarterly DOE small business updates. With newly sworn-in Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm and other new senior leaders joining the Department, the OSDBU is excited to continue its focus on maximizing opportunities for small businesses. This includes the following priorities:

- Advance supplier diversity for underrepresented entities through training, customer care, and outreach in collaboration with the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity.
- Continue to improve small business performance in the socio-economic categories graded by the Small Business Administration (SBA).
- Expand small business engagement in Category Management and grow the DOE’s Mentor-Protégé Program.

Small business data from FY 2020 will soon be finalized. The DOE anticipates exceeding its FY 2020 overall small business prime and subcontracting goals established by the SBA. This includes the Department achieving approximately $5 billion in prime small business contracting.

Thus far in FY 2021, the DOE is off to a good start in small business utilization. Looking ahead, the Department is projected to increase small business contracting from the previous Fiscal Year. In other news, the FY 2022 small business goaling process will begin in June. Other topics in this Newsletter include a summary of new DOE small business partnerships in the Department’s Mentor Protégé Program as well as important SBA initiatives to enhance inter-agency collaboration.

Thank you for advocating for the utilization of small businesses to help advance DOE’s missions.

Paul Ross, Acting Director and Principal Deputy Director
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
U.S. Department of Energy
MENTOR PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM UPDATES

The DOE’s Mentor-Protégé Program develops long-term partnerships between small businesses and the Department’s prime contractors. During Q2 FY 2021, four new agreements in the program were established:

- Three agreements supporting the Office of Environmental Management - Two supporting Hanford Mission Integration Solutions at the Hanford Site, and one supporting Mid-America Conversion Services at the Portsmouth/Paducah site for the DUF6 Project.
- One agreement supporting the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Photo: Crane and rigging crew at the Hanford Site

OTHER SMALL BUSINESS UPDATES

The SBA’s Office of Government Contracting is developing a new Customer Liaison initiative to enhance the Federal government’s collaboration on small business activities. Federal agencies can reach out to their designated SBA Customer Liaison for support with the following activities:

- Questions on Business Plan Operations
- Upcoming solicitations discussions with SBA
- SBA surveillance reviews
- Small business subcontracting program compliance reviews
- General questions on size determination and certificate of competency programs
- Congressional inquiries requiring SBA’s input

The SBA has also released an important update on the timeline for the FY 2021 Individual Subcontract Reports (ISRs) and Summary Subcontract Reports (SSRs). Due to the continued impact of COVID-19, the SBA has established a 15-day extension for the Federal Contractor’s (FC) report submission due dates and to the Federal Agency’s (FA) review periods for the FY 2021 ISRs and SSRs. The FC submission deadline for the Mid-Year ISR is May 15, 2021; the FA Mid-Year ISR review deadline is June 14, 2021. FCs must submit the End-Year ISR and SSR by November 14, 2021, while FAs must review by December 14, 2021.

These extensions do not change the Subcontract Reporting periods, though they allow FCs to address any internal issues they encountered during the 2020 reporting period. In addition, the extension provides FAs more time to review the reports. For more information, please visit the SBA’s website.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Below are upcoming small business events. Check out the Small Business Events Calendar on the OSDBU’s website for the latest event information

- May 6, 2021 - Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) Matchmaker Madness
- June 2-3, 2021 - U.S. Women’s Chamber of Commerce (USWCC) and the American Small Business Chamber of Commerce (ASBCC) 12th Annual National Small Business Contracting Summit | Southeast Conference 2021

If you would like to share a DOE small business success story, or have a suggestion for another topic in this newsletter, please email your submissions to Darren Lurie at darren.lurie@hq.doe.gov.