



Quarterly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021



OFFICE OF SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION

FROM THE DIRECTOR



On behalf of the OSDBU, I am pleased to share these DOE small business updates. As Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 has come to a close, part of this Newsletter highlights the DOE's small business achievements and initiatives during this period.

While FY 21 procurement data is still being tabulated, the DOE projects a total of \$5.14B in prime small business contracting. This marks an increase from the total prime small business awards in FY 20 (\$5.1B). The Department is on course to surpass its FY 20 prime and subcontracting achievement total of \$8.7B.

FY 21 included the development of two important Departmental initiatives supporting small business: the Equity Procurement Working Group (EPWG) and Justice40 Initiative. As part of the EPWG's efforts, the DOE is developing strategies to mitigate barriers to doing business with the Government in support of EO 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*. Through the Justice40 Initiative established as part of EO 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, the Department is targeting socio-economic groups with the goal of delivering 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities and the establishment of an Environmental Justice Scorecard.

The OSDBU is pleased to report that the FY 22 DOE Prime Contracting Small Business Goaling season is underway. We would like to encourage goaling submitters to ensure their respective Departmental Element's small business goaling information is entered into the iPortal Goaling Application by **October 29, 2021**.

In other developments, the OSDBU is happy to share that we have brought on Lani Nishimura, Contract Specialist, as a detailee from the Office of Science's Consolidated Service Center to support procurement reviews and other projects.

Thank you for your contributions to the Department's small business successes and for advocating for the utilization of small businesses to help advance the DOE's mission.

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

DOE SMALL BUSINESS SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT

According to preliminary FY 21 data, the DOE anticipates exceeding its total prime small business awards from FY 20 (\$5.1B). In addition, the Department projects increased prime small business spending in three of the four Small Business Administration (SBA)-graded socio-economic categories.



- The Department is outpacing prime small business awards to Small and Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB) for a total of \$1.53B.
- This marks an increase of more than \$100M during this period in FY 20.



- DOE is also tracking higher in prime small business contracting with Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) for a total of \$385M.
- This is more than \$35M from the amount DOE awarded during this period in FY 20.



- DOE is outpacing prime small business awards to Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Businesses for a total of \$300M.
- This marks an increase of approximately \$28M from this period in FY 20.

While the Department continues to advance its socio-economic small business performance, the OSDBU would like to stress the importance of meeting these annual socio-economic goals established by the SBA.

GOALING AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

The OSBU is pleased to share updates on goaling negotiations with the SBA and recent legislative updates from the Small Business Procurement Advisory Council.

GOALING

The OSDBU provided small business goaling training to Small Business Program Managers (SBPMs) on September 15, 2021. Please refer to the [iPortal Goaling Application](#) for further information, including training modules, reports, and other topics.

The Department anticipates the FY 22 small business goals set by SBA to be finalized in late November. We anticipate making the Departmental FY 22 small business goal projections to meet or exceed the goals established by SBA. Thank you for supporting DOE's annual small business prime and subcontracting goals.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

As part of proposed legislation in the FY 22 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the government-wide small business and socio-economic goals would be raised to the following:

- Government-wide small business goal would be raised from 23% to 25%
- SDVOSB and HUBZone goals would be raised from 3% to 4%
- SDB goal would gradually increase from 5% to 15%
- WOSB goal would gradually increase from 5% to 7%

Another part of the proposed legislation in the FY 22 NDAA would streamline the 8(a) waiver process required when ownership and control of the 8(a) business passes to another 8(a) by enabling the SBA Administrator to delegate the waiver determination, and would allow the sale of a contract from an 8(a) to another 8(a), subject to the same waiver process. In addition, the proposed legislation in the FY 22 NDAA would raise the small-business sole-source thresholds to \$8M/\$10M.

These and other proposed legislation passed the House as part of the FY 22 NDAA (H.R. 4350) on Sept. 23, 2021. Please stay tuned for further developments in this proposed legislation.

FY 2021 SMALL BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS

Fiscal Year 2021 was a great year for small business and socio-economic contracting at the DOE. The DOE continued to advance its small business achievement in the SBA's socio-economic categories. In addition, the Department supported several important small business initiatives.

Through the EPWG and Justice40 Initiative, the DOE advanced its efforts to increase equity in procurement and advance supplier diversity for underrepresented entities. The EPWG conducted benchmarking efforts with state and local governments for consideration in DOE's equity assessment and plan to enhance equity for underserved communities in Agency contracting and financial assistance programs, policies, processes, and operations. In addition, the EPWG partnered with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to co-host the Barriers Among Underserved Groups in Underserved Areas from Equal Access to Federal Procurement Opportunities crowdsourcing campaign in support of the government-wide effort to advance racial equity and support for underserved communities.

As part of the Justice40 Initiative, the Department completed several deliverables in support of the goal to increase overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities. This included Budget Data Request (BDR 21-09) to identify federal activities to help address the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climate related, economic, and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities and energy communities. The DOE compiled and reviewed this data and submitted a report to OMB on April 15, 2021.

During FY 21, the DOE also continued to expand and improve its Mentor Protege Program (MPP). This program develops long-term partnerships between small businesses and the Department's prime contractors. In FY 21, the Department established 12 new agreements in the program. The OSDBU also developed a plan to grow and further improve the DOE MPP, including streamlining the approval process. This plan involves a phased approach to implementing continued improvements in the program and is currently in Phase I.

In other FY 21 achievements, the DOE developed small business technical assistance webinars and provided access to other developmental resources for underserved communities. The Department encouraged the establishment of a DOE AbilityOne Representative, Justin Crosby, to develop policy on increasing contracting opportunities for persons with disabilities. Mr. Crosby serves as the Director of the Strategic Programs Division in the DOE's Office of Acquisition Management.

The OSDBU would like to thank all DOE small businesses stakeholders for their contributions to the Department's FY 21 achievements in maximizing the utilization of small and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses to help advance the Agency's mission.

Looking ahead, the OSDBU would like to explore partnerships with Departmental Elements on outreach events to help increase maximum practicable opportunities for small businesses. With your help, the Department can continue to make progress in DOE small business initiatives and have another great year supporting small businesses in FY 22!

CONTRACTING UPDATE: DOE PASS

The DOE Professional & Administrative Support Services (PASS) Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) are part of a Department-wide strategic sourcing effort to reduce costs, leverage buying power across Departmental elements, and expand strategic acquisition initiatives. This will also help increase supplier diversity by providing opportunities to small businesses from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds.

TYPES OF SERVICES

DOE PASS are broad in nature and provide a diverse set of skills needed across DOE program and staff offices and functions. The services are inherently non-governmental in nature and span four task areas under the General Services Administration's Professional Services Schedules (PSS) Special Item Numbers (SINs):

- **Task Area 1** - Procurement Support Services (00 CORP 874 6 -Acquisition Management Support)
- **Task Area 2** - Administrative Support Services (00 CORP 874 7 -Integrated Business Program Support)
- **Task Area 3** - Budget Support Services (00 CORP 520 12 -Budgeting)
- **Task Area 4** - Program Management Support Services (00 CORP 520 21 - Program Management Services)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUCCESS

All vendors were selected through a competitive process and represent highly qualified Contractor Teaming Arrangements (CTAs) made up of businesses from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, including HUBZone businesses, women-owned small businesses (WOSBs), SBA-certified 8(a) small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs), veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs).

For questions regarding BPA ordering procedures or copies of sample documents, contact DOE Office of Headquarters Procurement Services (MA-64) Contracting Officer Will Diggs at william.diggs@hq.doe.gov.

SMALL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS



Small businesses provide critical services to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) through partnerships that help advance DOE clean energy initiatives.

Two small businesses were competitively selected in 2019 for a partnership that has been making a big impact with Materials Science research and the Small Business Program. Kyma Technologies, and its manufacturing partner Ceres Technologies are working with NREL materials scientists to design and build semiconductor manufacturing equipment near and dear to NREL's heart—equipment that will produce high-efficiency III-V solar cells. The work is funded by the Department of Defense to lower the cost and to increase domestic manufacturing capacity of space photovoltaic cells for national security and commercial space applications.

"It's important that we recognize small businesses," said Rexann Dunn, Small Business Program Manager (SBPM). "Small businesses can do the work. We just have to give them the opportunity."

DOE values its small business partners and recognizes the projects made possible with these partnerships. Thanks to NREL SBPM Rexann Dunn for sharing this DOE small business success story.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Below are upcoming small business events. Check out the [Small Business Events Calendar](#) on the OSDBU's website for more information.

- October 28, 2021** - U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization and Los Alamos National Laboratory Virtual Forum
Registration is required: [Click here to register](#)
- November 17, 2021** - Sandia National Laboratories 1:1 Supplier Engagements
To request a 30-minute appointment for your business, contact supplier@sandia.gov



(202) 586-7377

www.smallbusiness.energy.gov

smallbusiness@hq.doe.gov