

GOVLINK REVIEW

Keeping you informed about technology transfer and government contracts

Volume 11, Issue 1 March / April 2011



Sponsors:







November 1-2, 2011

Radisson Hotel Sacramento 500 Leisure Lane Sacramento, California 95815

Don't miss this highly-packed conference and the opportunity for networking with Government Agencies, Prime Contractors and Small Businesses.



November 1, 2011

- Breakout Sessions 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
 SESSION 1: Doing Business with GSA (General Services Administration)
 SESSION 2: Tour of Defense Microelectronics Activity (DMEA) High-Tech Laboratory
- Kick-off Reception 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

November 2, 2011

 Main Conference Day 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Keynote Speakers
- Federal Contracting Panel
- · State and Local Government Contracting Panel
- Small Business Success Story

WHY BUSINESS OWNERS SHOULD ATTEND:

- Learn about federal, state, and local government and prime contractor business opportunties
- Grow your business through networking with key government and prime contractor decision makers
- Tour Defense Microelectronics Activity (DMEA), a high-tech applied engineering federal laboratory

ABOUT GOVLINK CONFERENCE:

- The 11th Annual GovLink Conference provides networking opportunities between government agencies, prime contractors, and small businesses.
- The speakers from government agencies will discuss business opportunities, vendor selection criteria, and provide valuable insights on what it takes to be successful and how to avoid common mistakes.
- Federal, state, and local government agencies and major prime contractors will be exhibiting at the event to facilitate networking.

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBITOR OPPORTUNITIES:

Conference sponsorship and exhibiting opportunities are available to maximize your organization's networking and marketing exposure to conference attendees.

For more information and to register, go to www.TheFTC.org/govlinkconference.

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www.TheFTC.org

Free Small Business Counseling Available

Caltrans Contract Training Program provides two categories of counseling—business management assistance and government contracting assistance.

The Federal Technology (The FTC) and the Northeastern California Small Business Development Center—Greater Sacramento (SBDC) at the Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD), have teamed up to provide free counseling to small businesses through the *Caltrans Contract Training Program*.

Business Management Assistance - Counseling for the following topics is provided through Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs): finance and business management assistance, accounting



Presented by:





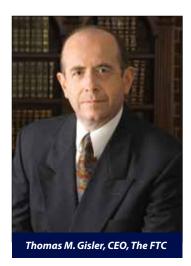


www. Caltrans Contract Training.org

Caltrans Contract Training Program

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2 CEO's Thoughts



The economy is still very prominent in everyone's mind. Unfortunately it is not because we have turned the corner and everything is looking rosy. Most of the experts project that overall the economy will continue to be lackluster in 2011 and possibly in 2012. There will be exceptions to this in almost every sector where certain businesses will experience growth and very positive bottom line numbers. I hope you are in that camp.

We all expect the federal government to cut back spending during 2011 and it looks as though that will also be the case for the state of California as they attempt to reign in a \$25 billion deficit. The uncertain part in the environment is how do you create jobs? All of you reading this article know that the engine of our economy is small businesses. We all need regulations that hinder business growth to be eliminated. We need tax incentives that foster business growth to be adopted by our legislature and any new regulations must measure the economic impact on businesses and our people. We do not want businesses to close or move out of state. We want businesses to grow and new businesses to be formed, and this will create jobs for our people. As this happens, the cities, counties, and the state will benefit from those tax revenues that have been severely depleted.

Remember, one of the better ways to grow your business is acquiring a government contract. We at The Federal Technology Center (TheFTC) can help you position yourself to be able to compete for any government contract at the federal, state, or

local level. Check out our website at www.TheFTC.org or give us a call at 916.334.9388.

Near the end of 2010, I had the opportunity to attend the Technology Transfer Integrated Planning Team conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is a Department of Defense conference to promote and help realize the commercialization of new and innovative ideas. It also fosters collaboration between federal laboratories, universities. and the private sector. Commercializing new inventions has a proven history of producing start-up businesses which help create entire new industries and help fuel our economy. These new innovative ideas have been the hallmark of the United States from its inception. We must continue to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit. All of you small business owners have that spirit and never let anyone take it away from you. You put the blood, sweat, and tears, backed by integrity, into America and that is goodness and that helps us be the great nation we are today. Chuck Swindoll says it this way,

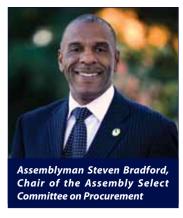
"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."

It was our pleasure to recently host Phillip Takacs and Lindsay Silliman, contracting officers from Defense Microelectronics Activity, at our office for a Navigating the FAR (Federal Acquisition Regulation) class. Phillip and Lindsay were able to observe the level of detail small businesses receive in one of The FTC's courses. To see a list of our upcoming government contracting courses and seminars, see page 4 and 5 of this issue.



Examining Small Business Challenges with California's Procurement Programs

A Forum Hosted by California State Assemblyman Steven Bradford



Assemblyman Steven Bradford, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Procurement, held an informational hearing on January 28 in Gardena, Calif., to explore the challenges small businesses



(I -r) Senator Curren Price, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Procurement; A.B. Bonner, Counselor/Instructor, The FTC

face in doing business with the state of California. Senator Curren Price (District 26), Chair of the Senate Select Committee on Procurement; Senator Roderick Wright, District 25; and Assemblyman Mike Eng, Dis-

trict 49 also attended the hearing. The Federal Technology Center's (The FTC) A.B. Bonner provided a brief overview of the services The FTC provides to help small businesses compete in the government marketplace. Approximately 70 small businesses attended and provided input focused on streamlining procurement processes, improving competition, and obtaining more state contracts. To learn more about how The FTC can help you do business with the state of California, go to www.TheFTC.org.



Energy Consulting Firm in Stockton, California, Wins \$2 Million Government Contract



(I-r) Mike Hodgson, President; Rob Hammon, Principal; Walter Kim, Consulting Department Manager; David Meyers, Senior Operations Manager; and Stephanie Van Steyn, Human Resource Manager

ConSol, an energy consulting firm in Stockton, Calif., recently won a \$2 million contract from the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), a state of California Department under the California Health and Human Services Agency. CSD manages statewide energy saving weatherization programs for low-income households through a network of 46 contracted Local Weatherization Service Providers. The weather-

ization program, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, has undergone a major expansion quality assurance field inspections of selected homes and apartment buildings weatherized by CSD's providers to ensure that services provided are in conformance with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and local building codes.

ConSol attributes its success in part to the knowledge gained by attending free classes and counseling offered by The Federal Technology Center (The FTC). When looking for more effective methods of proposal writing, Shery Hoellwarth, Marketing

presented by The FTC and met with The FTC's counselors. According to ConSol's Walter Kim, "The FTC's trainers are highly experienced in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and have offered valuable insights and tricks of the trade to various ConSol employees involved in proposal writing."

ConSol has been assisting government agencies, utilities, trade associations and developers since 1981. Their services include energy code (Title 24 and IECC) compliance documentation; energy efficiency, retrofit, and green program design and management; builder energy code training; and Home Energy Rating System (HERS) inspections. ConSol currently serves clients in nine western states and Hawaii.

To read more of The FTC's client success stories, go to www.TheFTC.org/clientstories.

"The FTC's trainers are highly experienced in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and have offered valuable insights and tricks of the trade to various ConSol employees involved in proposal writing." - Walter Kim, Consulting Department Manager

as a result of the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). ConSol was selected to perform

Director, sought out The FTC. In the ensuing two years, seven members of the ConSol team have attended numerous classes

Terry Nelson Joins The FTC as a Counselor/Instructor



Terry Nelson joined The Federal Technology Center after 38 years of experience in private industry and government. While employed in industry, he worked in various roles as an electronics technician in a two-person, two-way radio electronics shop, a small aircraft repair facility, and also for medium and very large defense contractors. In his government service, he has been employed by the U.S. Navy and Air Force, Defense Logistics

Agency (DLA), Defense Contract Management Agency and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). He has worked on Army, Navy, Air Force, NASA, and DLA, missile, rocket, satellite, munitions, piece-part contracts and VA supply and service contracts. His career has included responsibilities as a Quality Assurance Specialist, Cost & Price Analyst, Contract Negotiator, Contract Specialist, Contracting Officer, and Procurement Analyst.

His last assignment was with the VA where one of his top priorities was as the VA's Small Business Representative for Northern California, Northern Nevada, Hawaii and the Philippines (VISN 21). His responsibility was to support small businesses with outreach

Terry Nelson

Continued on page 6

Attention WAWF Users:

The much anticipated Version 5.0 of Wide Area Work Flow (WAWF) was launched on February 14.



Version 5.0 is Now Available! **All users of WAWF** from vendors, suppliers, and contractors to reviewers, approvers and payment officers will benefit from the new look and feel of Version 5.0.

Two of the new features include:

- Drop down menus rather than links
- "Save and Continue" function allows a user to save a document in progress for 7 days.

To learn more about all of the new features and to access the Web Based Training for Version 5.0, go to: https://wawftraining.eb.mil/xhtml/unauth/web/wbt/WbtSummary.xhtml

Government Contracting Courses and Seminars*

In our FREE training seminars you will learn techniques to tap into the profitable federal, state, and local government markets. Our instructors have extensive experience in government contracting and are familiar with the latest contracting laws and regulations.



Getting Started with Government **Contracting**

Greater Sacramento Area March 1 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm The Federal Technology Center AT&T Wireless Computer Lab 4600 Roseville Road, Suite 100 North Highlands, CA 95660

March 22 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm The Federal Technology Center AT&T Wireless Computer Lab 4600 Roseville Road, Suite 100 North Highlands, CA 95660

April 5 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm The Federal Technology Center AT&T Wireless Computer Lab 4600 Roseville Road, Suite 100 North Highlands, CA 95660

April 14 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm The Federal Technology Center AT&T Wireless Computer Lab 4600 Roseville Road, Suite 100 North Highlands, CA 95660

North State

April 12 - 10:00 am to 1:00 pm North Coast SBDC 520 E Street Eureka, CA 95501

May 3 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Shasta College Trinity Campus 30 Arbuckle Ct. Weaverville, CA 96093

Southern California

March 15 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Economic Ventures & The Small Business Loan Fund 374 Poli Street, Suite 207 Ventura, CA 93001

March 22 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) & The Small Business Loan Fund 333 S. Salinas Street Santa Barbara, CA 93103

April 7 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm City of Monterey Park, Council Chambers 320 West Newmark Avenue Monterey Park, CA 91754



Intro to Federal **Contracting**

April 7 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Alameda County Conference Center 125 12th Street, 4th Floor Oakland, CA 94607

May 6 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm City of Union City 34009 Alvarado Niles Road Union City, CA 94587

Central California

May 5 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Alliance SBDC 1733 "O" Street Merced, CA 95340

Greater Sacramento Area

March 8 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Hillsdale Business Information Center 5655 Hillsdale Boulevard, Suite 8 Sacramento, CA 95842

April 19 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm City of Lincoln 600 Sixth Street, Training Room, 3rd Floor Lincoln, CA 95648

June 28 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Rocklin Chamber of Commerce 3700 Rocklin Road Rocklin, CA 95677

North State

June 2 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm SBDC at Shasta College 2990 Innsbruck Dr. Redding, CA 96003

Southern California

March 29 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce One World Trade Center, Suite 206 Long Beach, CA 90831

June 21 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) & The Small Business Loan Fund 374 Poli Street, Suite 207 Ventura, CA 93001



Responding to RFPs (Request for Proposal)

Bay Area

March 8 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm City of Union City 34009 Alvarado Niles Road Union City, CA 94587

North State

March 10 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce 169 Highway 50 Stateline, NV 89449

April 5 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Yuba Community College District SBDC 1227 Bridge Street, Suite C (Behind Umpqua Bank) Yuba City, CA 95901

Southern California

June 7 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce One World Trade Center, Suite 206 Long Beach, CA 90831



Government Subcontracting

Bay Area

April 14 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm San Francisco SBDC 455 Market Street, 6th Floor San Francisco, CA 94105

Central California

April 20 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce 128 East California Avenue Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Greater Sacramento Area

March 15 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce 1414 Merklev Avenue West Sacramento, CA 95691

May 5 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Greater Sacramento SBDC 1410 Ethan Way Sacramento, CA 95825

North State

April 5 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Lassen Career Network 1616 Chestnut Street Susanville, CA 96130



Doing Business with General Services Administration

Bay Area

March 10 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Solano College SBDC 360 Campus Lane, Suite 102 Fairfield, CA 94534



Doing Business with Alameda County

Bay Area

June 2 - Alameda County Conference Center 125 12th Street, 4th Floor Oakland, CA 94607

*To attend, pre-registration is required. Class materials are available to attendees only. The FTC reserves the right to cancel any class due to low enrollment.

To register or for course descriptions, go to www.TheFTC.org or call 916.334.9388



Navigating the FAR (Federal Aquisition Regulation)

Bay Area

April 12 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Silicon Valley SBDC 100 East Santa Clara Street (at Third Street), First Floor San Jose, CA 95113

Greater Sacramento Area

March 10 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm The Federal Technology Center 4600 Roseville Road, Suite 100 North Highlands, CA 95660

April 26 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Citrus Heights Career Center 7011 Sylvan Road Citrus Heights, CA 95610

May 12 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce 9370 Studio Court, #110 Elk Grove, CA 95758

May 17 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm The Federal Technology Center 4600 Roseville Road, Suite 100 North Highlands, CA 95660

North State

March 3 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Butte College SBDC 19 Williamsburg Lane Chico, CA 95926

Southern California

April 5 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm El Camino College SBDC 13430 Hawthorne Boulevard Hawthorne, CA 90250

May 10 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Valley Economic Development Center (VEDC) 5121 Van Nuys Boulevard, Third Floor Van Nuys, CA 91403



Responding to an **Invitation for Bid (IFB)**

March 29 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Alameda County Public Works Agency 951 Turner Court Hayward, CA 94545

May 12 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Solano College SBDC 360 Campus Lane, Suite 102 Fairfield, CA 94534

Central California

March 17 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm University of California, Merced, SBDC Regional Network - CVBI 550 East Shaw Avenue, Tulare/Madera Room Fresno, CA 93710

Greater Sacramento Area

April 7 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Stockton Boulevard Business Information Center 4990 Stockton Boulevard Sacramento, CA 95820

April 21 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm The Federal Technology Center 4600 Roseville Road, Suite 100 North Highlands, CA 95660

North State

March 1 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm SBDC at Shasta College 2990 Innsbruck Dr. Redding, CA 96003

Southern California

April 12 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm City of Anaheim, Economic Development Anaheim City Hall 200 S. Anaheim Boulevard, 5th Floor Anaheim, CA 92805

May 3 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Mission Community Services Corp. 71 Zaca Lane, Suite 130 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



Project Management

March 22 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Silicon Valley SBDC 100 East Santa Clara Street (at Third Street), First Floor San Jose, CA 95113

April 5 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Contra Costa SBDC 300 Ellinwood Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Greater Sacramento Area

April 7 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm El Dorado County 330 Fair Lane, OES Conference Room, Building A Placerville, CA 95667

April 6 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Modoc Employment Center 221 North Main Street Alturas, CA 96101

Southern California

March 8 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2130 E. 4th Street, Suite 160 Santa Ana, CA 92705



Marketing to Government

Central California

March 15 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Alliance SBDC 1020 Tenth Street, Suite 102 Modesto, CA 95354

April 19 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Business Assistance Center of Kern Community College District 2100 Chester Avenue, 1st Floor Bakersfield, CA 93301

Greater Sacramento Area March 18 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Sierra College -Roseville Gateway Campus 333 Sunrise Boulevard, Room 607 Roseville, CA 95678

April 12 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Del Paso Business Information Center 925 Del Paso Boulevard Sacramento, CA 95815

Southern California May 12 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) & The Small Business Loan Fund 374 Poli Street, Suite 207 Ventura, CA 93001



Federal Contract Negotiation

Greater Sacramento Area

March 3 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Greater Sacramento SBDC 1410 Ethan Way Sacramento, CA 95825



SBA's 8(a) Business **Development Program**

North State

May 10 - 9:00 am to 12:00 pm SBDC at Shasta College and College of the Siskiyous 212 Butte Street Yreka, CA 96097

Dear Counselor,

Dear Counselor: I have been looking at bid opportunities in the Defense Logistics Agency Bid Board System (DIBBS) (https://www.dibbs.bsm.dla.mil/). I noticed that there is an option to bidding called "No Bid." What is the point of this?

J.C., Placerville, Calif.

Dear J.C.: It is a courtesy to choose "no bid" to let the buyer know that you do not plan to quote. The buyer, who is hoping to get two or more competitive quotes, knows that if they receive several "no bids" they should follow up and find out why. Often it is because there is something wrong with the request, e.g. too short a delivery time, unrealistic quantities, obsolete items, or other possible problems. If you are able to add the statement, "please retain on bid list," then you will not be dropped if you have been included on a list of possible sources. This is more of an issue if you have been a previous supplier, otherwise, it does not matter much.

Special Note: Please be aware of an ongoing investigation that resulted in the suspension of two firms. This investigation was the result of allegations that small business contracts may have been illegally passed through to large businesses. If the allegations are proved, at a minimum, these firms will be debarred from receiving federal contracts, and may be subject to other penalties.

Small business contracts, sometimes called "set-asides" require that the recipient performs the work and, for the most part, uses other small businesses as suppliers and subcontractors.

As a small business, ensure that when you bid on a set-aside opportunity that you have the primary capability to perform the service or supply the product.

GSA Schedule

Did you know that Federal Supply Schedules for medical products and services, including pharmaceuticals, equipment and supplies, medical staffing, and others are managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), rather than the General Services Administration (GSA)? They use the GSA eLibrary website (www.gsa.gov/elibrary) to list products on these schedules, and the principles of completing the solicitation and marketing the contract are similar to those for GSA Schedules. Whether you want a medical schedule through the VA or another type of GSA schedule, you can rely on The Federal Technology Center's counselors for assistance at no charge. Contact us at 916.334.9388 to schedule an appointment.

Caltrans Contract Training Program

Continued from page 1

and cash flow management, business plan, business startup, business management, customer service, financial statements, financing, human resource management, insurance, Internet solutions and website design, marketing plans, QuickBooks / Peachtree, and social networking.

To receive business management assistance, please contact your local Small Business Development Center. (Counseling is exclusive to each SBDC location.) To see the list of SBDC locations in California, go to www.CaltransContractTraining.org and click on Free Counseling.

Government Contracting Assistance - Counseling for the following topics is provided by The Federal Technology Center (The FTC): assistance in finding specifications and plans, construction-related bids, contract management, DBE and Small Business Certification, developing cost proposals, estimating, guidance on pre-bid and other conferences, marketing to prime contractors, preparing bid/proposal, preparing online bids and proposals, prime contractors' expectations, use of the Internet to identify solicitations, bonding, subcontracting requirements. To receive government contracting assistance, please contact The FTC toll-free at 866.382.7822 or www.TheFTC.org.

Terry Nelson

Continued from page 3

and counseling, for which he received a VA Headquarters Award, the first such award to be given to anyone in VISN 21.

Terry has a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Hayward, and has completed over 70 units of college level business courses (27 at the graduate level). He has completed numerous government and commercial courses in procurement and contracts, logistics, and quality assurance and he has been certified as an Acquisition Professional Level II by both the Department of Defense and the VA. He retired as an E-8 Electronics Branch Superintendent from the California Air National Guard in 1993.



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Jennifer L. Dauer David A. Diepenbrock Keith W. McBride www.diepenbrock.com

Join Our Network of Partners

The Federal Technology Center (The FTC) provides contracting assistance to small businesses in 54 of California's 58 counties through the support of our network of Community Partners, In-kind Supporters, and Outreach Partners.

Our **Community Partners** support their local economy by contributing financial support to The FTC to help us provide free government contracting courses and counseling to small businesses in their city or county.

Our *In-kind Supporters* provide classroom or counseling space so that we may help local small businesses.

Our **Outreach Partners** help us market our free services to small businesses by distributing our class flyers or posting class announcements on their websites.

If you would like to partner with The FTC to bring government contracting assistance to your area, or to help us market our free courses and seminars, please contact Jack Toney, Director of The FTC's Statewide Procurement Assistance Program, at Jack@TheFTC.org or 916.334.9388.



California's Leading Expert in Federal, State, and Local Government Contracts





Government Contracting Assistance

- Over 200 years of combined experience in government contracting
- Small business assistance with all aspects of government contracting
- Free courses, seminars and one-on-one confidential counseling

Our Results

(Oct. 2000 - Sept. 2010)

- \$1.25 billion in government contracts reported
- · 25,023 Jobs created or retained
- 29,374 Government contract awards reported
- · 9,300 Businesses assisted
- · 27,645 Counseling sessions

Client Quote:



"I can honestly say that we couldn't have done it without the help of The FTC and its outstanding counselors helping us 'little guys' learn how the 'big guys' do business." -- Judy Smith, CEO, CrossWind Machining

[Read her story: www.TheFTC.org/clientstories]

For more information about our 10-year Anniversary, go to: www.TheFTC.org/10years



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