HBCU / MI Technology Infusion Road Tour

Florida A&M University

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• **About**
  
  Aerojet Rocketdyne is an innovative company delivering solutions that create value for its customers in the aerospace and defense markets. The company is a world-recognized aerospace and defense leader that provides propulsion and energetics to the space, missile defense and strategic systems, tactical systems and armaments areas, in support of domestic and international markets.

• **Capabilities**
  
  Aerojet Rocketdyne is a leader in the development and manufacture of aerospace propulsion systems; precision tactical weapon systems; and armament systems, including warhead and munitions applications. Aerojet Rocketdyne is a leading provider in both the solid and liquid propulsion market areas, as well as the number one provider in the tactical segment area of solid propulsion. Long recognized as a developer of new technology, Aerojet Rocketdyne continues to meet emerging defense and aerospace propulsion needs and is well-positioned to benefit from the increased focus on and funding of defense and space programs.
Completing a Needs Assessment

• Understand the Mentor Protégé Agreement Requirements for HBCU/MIs
  – 70% of hours dedicated to business developmental activities
  – 30% of hours dedicated to technical developmental activities
  – Activities need to be focused on delivering a win-win-win for NASA, Protégé, and Mentor
Completing a Needs Assessment

• Determine what the Protégé wants to get out of the agreement
  – Develop strategic relationships with industry partners
  – Enhance infrastructure (i.e. new software, equipment, etc.)
  – Provide research opportunities for staff and training
  – Inject financial assistance in the form of scholarships for students
  – Provide employment opportunities to students in the form of internships or co-ops
Completing a Needs Assessment

• Determine what the Mentor wants to get out of the agreement
  – Pool of talent / resources (i.e. knowledgeable professors and enthusiastic students)
  – Diversify supply chain and infuse innovation – source for R&D efforts
  – Strategic long-term value as a partner
AR / AAMU Mentor-Protégé Activities

- AR / Alabama A&M University (HBCU) Mentor-Protégé Agreement established from 2012 to 2014
- Activities completed included:
  - Job Shadowing
  - Engineering Training
  - Executive Lecture Series & Executive / Faculty Exchange
  - Professional Development & Career Fairs
Challenges Primes Encounter

• Significant gaps between wants of Protégé and needs of Mentor
• Different business infrastructure / organization
• Finding subcontracting opportunities
• Schedules
• Invoices