

Office of  
**Small Business Programs (OSBP)**  
where small business makes a **big** difference



**OSBP Newsletter**  
*Fall 2015*



» Small Business Success Story

**Founding of the Datanaut Corps**

**Beth Beck, Open Innovation Program Manager, Datanaut Corps**

*NASA Headquarters Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO)*

After the 2014 International Space Apps Challenge, the Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Technology and Innovation team saw the need to engage more women in the data field. So, the team reached out to experts and organizations leading the data and startup communities to better understand the gaps, needs, and desires of the front-line problem solvers, who are carving out a new pathway for others to follow. After conducting more than two-dozen interviews and additional research on women in these emerging fields, the team focused on ways to empower, equip, and honor women in data.

The Datanaut Corps was born. The founding class is composed of female leaders from across the data/maker/tech communities with diverse skills who can devise creative ways to solve problems using NASA data. The corps' purpose is to engage citizens with NASA's open data and open-data tools, discover new citizen-generated insights from the data, and increase digital literacy among women and underserved

communities. In essence, NASA's open data are now in more hands to generate more value (and, in turn, generate more demand for NASA's data as a valued commodity). As the Datanaut Corps concept matures, it will be opened up to men as well as women. The team is still determining how many Datanauts they can support per class. They will most likely start with 50 for the next class, then assess the size for the third class.

To kick off the Datanaut Program, the Technology and Innovation team hosted the founding class at NASA Headquarters.

Datanauts met with NASA executives, including Chief Scientist Ellen Stofan, astronaut Cady Coleman, Deputy Chief Engineer Dawn Schaible, Deputy Chief Scientist Gale Allen, Chief Technology Officer for IT Deborah Diaz, and Johnson Space Center Chief Financial Officer Dot Rasco. NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden, Deputy Administrator Dr. Dava J. Newman, and Deputy Associate Administrator Lesa Roe also dropped by during

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

To advise the Administrator on all matters related to small business, to promote the development and management of NASA programs that assist all categories of small business, to develop small businesses in

high-tech areas that include technology transfer and commercialization of technology, and to provide small businesses maximum practicable opportunities to participate in NASA prime contracts and subcontracts.

**VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) at NASA Headquarters is to promote and integrate all small businesses into the competitive base of contractors that pioneer the future of space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research.

## » Small Business Success Story (Continued)

the day to visit the Datanauts. Brainstorming sessions resulted in several design tracks for the Datanauts that will permit them to engage with NASA's open data in novel ways. The work has only just begun!

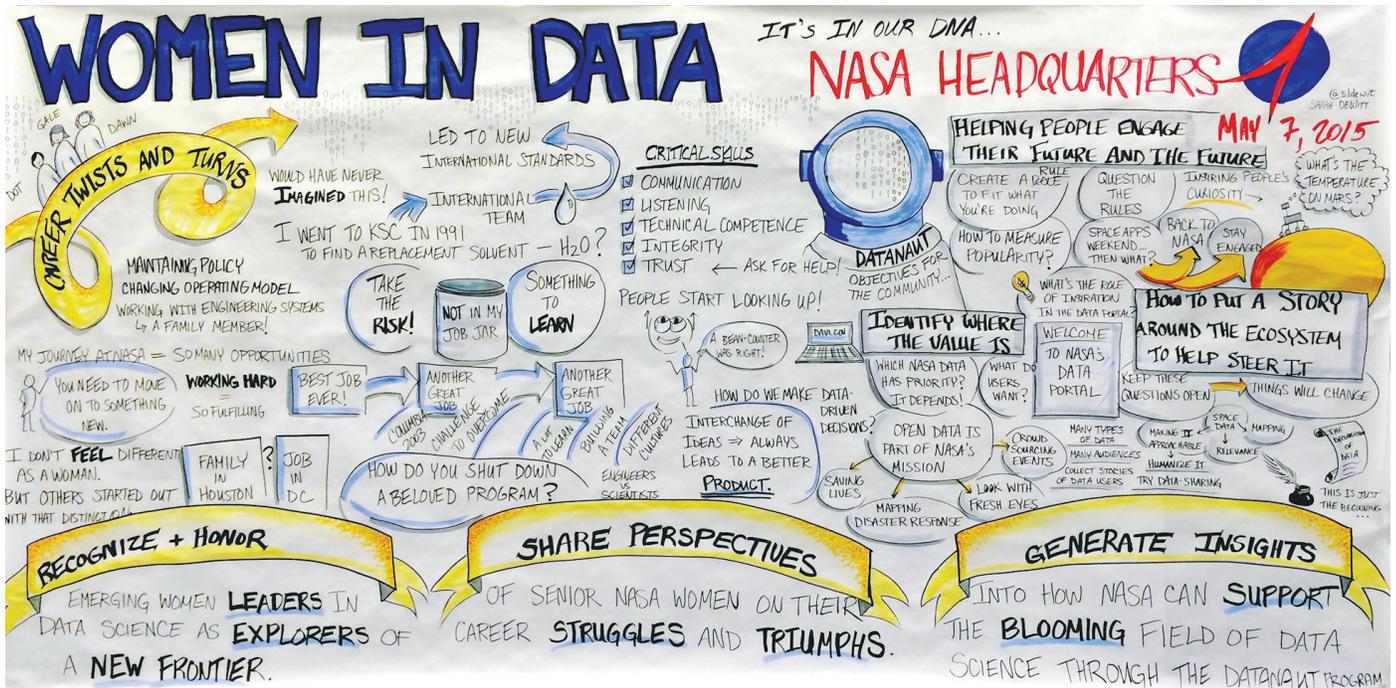
The founding class includes Hilary Mason, founder of Fast Forward Labs, a machine intelligence research company; Sasha Laundry, Women Who Code founder and Polynumeral data scientist; Betsy Langowski, Apple software engineer; Leah Gilliam,

director of Mozilla Foundation's Hive NYC Learning Network; Ariel Waldman, founder of SpaceHack.org; Marianne Mader, co-founder of STEAMLabs; Vanessa Hurst, founder and CEO of CodeMontage; Presidential Innovation Fellows Rachel Gordon, Maia Hansen, Julia Kim, and Lea Shanley; and others.

NASA Datanaut profiles can be found at <https://open.nasa.gov/nasadanauts>. »



The NASA Datanauts founding class with NASA Deputy Administrator Dr. Dava J. Newman, Chief Technology Officer for IT Deborah Diaz, astronaut Cady Coleman, Open Innovation Manager Beth Beck, and Datanaut Community Manager Ali Lewellyn.



Graphic note-taking by Sarah Dewitt of NASA's Office of the Chief Scientist.

## » Small Business Specialist Spotlight

# Rose A. Herrera, Small Business Specialist

NASA Johnson Space Center

I grew up in Houston, TX. My family emigrated from Mexico in 1954, when I was quite young. I am the third child in a family of six and I have fond memories of my childhood. I also have distinct memories of my parents' struggles to adapt to a new way of life in the United States. I appreciate and can see how my parents recognized the "opportunities" for their children and how that outweighed the struggles and risks to be here. It is because of their decision that my family and I are here today. Within 2 years of arriving in this country, my father had opened a small business called "Acosta Refrigeration and AC Repair Shop,"—one man, a run-down duplex, and an old pick-up truck—a perfect profession



Rose A. Herrera, Small Business Specialist  
NASA Johnson Space Center

for hot and humid Houston. My first job at 12 years old was as a "receptionist" for my dad (Ok, I answered the phone; my father's instructions to me were "Get the customer name and phone number right."). Fast forward through the years: I graduated from high school, got married, and started a family. With the encouragement of my husband—and when my youngest child began school—I embarked on the journey to obtain a bachelor's degree. It was in my final year in college that I joined the NASA Co-op Program and began my career at the Johnson Space Center (JSC). My first tour at JSC was in the Pricing Office, and I loved it; I had a lot to learn. Over the years, I have supported source evaluation boards, program offices, and procurement offices in my roles as a price analyst, a contract specialist, and a contracting officer. Each assignment has served as a positive growth opportunity both personally and professionally.

I was happy supporting the JSC Procurement Operations Support Office as a Contracting Officer. It was my team lead at the time that suggested a move and an opportunity for a new career experience. The prospect of a change was attractive, but what was more appealing was the

purposefulness of the new position as a Small Business Specialist and the opportunity to help all businesses, large and small.

The duties and responsibilities of a Small Business Specialist revolve around identifying the customers' needs. The customers range from procurement contracting personnel, technical organizations, the Small Business Administration (SBA), other Government Agencies, local small and large contractor councils, NASA contractors, non-NASA contractors, and commercial vendors. The activities that help to serve our customers include outreach, training, guidance with regulations and reporting requirements, and strategic planning and assessments. We work

to align the contractors' capabilities with the contract requirements and establish and maintain effective working relationships. Our support activities also include knowledge-sharing that is promoted and sponsored by the Office of Small Business Programs for the benefit of Small Business Specialists at all Centers. Without a doubt, the most rewarding part of my job is when a business (new to NASA) makes a connection with the JSC Industry Assistance Office, and the introduction opens the door to their understanding of the requirements for becoming an active participant in the procurement process at NASA.

I anticipate that this year, the biggest challenge for small businesses will be their ability to seek out partnering and joint venture opportunities that will position them for higher dollar value contracting opportunities. Under this contracting scenario, the responsibility will be shared and the small businesses will be exposed to a new and higher level of contract administration and reporting. While this will be a challenge, it will also provide small businesses an opportunity to experience more moderate and gradual growth and eventually progress to performing on larger contracts. »

## Important Dates To Remember

September 16–19, 2015

**45th Annual Legislative Conference  
Congressional Black Caucus**

Washington, DC

<http://pathropositive.org/events/45th-annual-legislative-conference-congressional-black-caucus>

September 16, 2015

**2nd Annual NASA Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)/  
Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) Partnerships Meeting**

Huntsville, AL

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2nd-annual-nasa-historically-black-colleges-universities-hbcusminority-serving-institutions-msis-tickets-17209164073>

September 17, 2015

**Marshall Small Business Alliance (MSBA) Meeting**

Huntsville, AL

<http://www.osbp.nasa.gov>

September 28–October 1, 2015

**Marshall Prime Contractors Supplier Conference (MPCSC)**

Salt Lake City, UT

<http://www.osbp.nasa.gov>

October 1, 2015

**ProcureCon Virginia and NASA**

Fairfax, VA

<http://www.aabac.org/>

October 20, 2015

**Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Expo**

Orlando, FL

<http://www.osbp.nasa.gov>

October 29–30, 2015

**National HUBZone Conference**

Chantilly, VA

<http://www.hubzonecouncil.org/clubportal/ClubStatic.cfm?clubID=528&pubmenuoptID=29484>

November 17–19, 2015

**5th Annual National Veterans Small Business Engagement**

Pittsburgh, PA

<http://nvsbe.com/>



## AA's Corner

I would like to personally thank everyone that contributed to the success of the Johnson Space Center (JSC) Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Industry Day held on August 11, 2015. As always, we had a phenomenal turnout and events like these industry days provide a great path forward in finding companies that benefit NASA, support our missions, and build our industrial base.

This summer has been especially busy for the entire Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) team. OSBP has been on the road all across the country supporting outreach events, conducting program reviews, and conducting Center visits. My travel schedule was also packed; I traveled across the United States conducting meetings and engaging both large and small businesses that NASA needs to complete our future missions. At one point I was on the road for 4 straight weeks. With that said, I want to thank my lovely wife, Shirley, for tolerating me throughout the years. We just celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary. Her support and kindness allow me to keep my passion for both her and the NASA small business programs strong. (Those who really know me and her say she's up for "sainthood" for being married to me so long.)

I want to welcome to the NASA family our new Deputy Administrator Dr. Dava J. Newman. Dr. Newman received her doctorate in aerospace biomedical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). One of her well-known accomplishments is her design of the BioSuit, which is a form-fitting spacesuit that uses metal coils to replace gas pressure with mechanical pressure. Cutting-edge technology like this helps to provide the fundamental tools necessary to take humans into deep space.

I also want to welcome Troy Miller, who was recently selected as the Small Business Specialist (SBS) at the NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC). Troy worked in the NSSC Office of Procurement and is now embarking on a new role supporting small business at NASA. I would also like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Trina Street for all her hard work during her time as the NSSC SBS. Trina, you will be missed, and thanks for all you did in that role.

Our recent office relocation went smoothly, and my fingers are crossed that this will now be our permanent home at NASA Headquarters. I am extremely happy with the new space, and everyone has begun to settle into their new offices. Claudette Washington did an exceptional job coordinating all the logistics and making sure everything went smoothly. I want to also thank the entire OSBP team for taking this move in stride and to acknowledge the level of teamwork needed to make it as successful as it was.

During one of my several trips this summer, I had the opportunity to go to Ames Research Center (ARC), where I met with a company called SkyTran. Their idea is to use tracks to transport high-speed vehicles using magnetic levitation (Maglev) with a patented Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) system. I also had the privilege to meet with four other high-tech small businesses. I got to see the team at Made In Space for the second time this year. Made In Space is the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) Phase II Company that invented the 3D printer that operates in zero gravity. Rhombus Power, Inc., is known for their scalable platform for detecting subatomic particles with their product called Mercury. Scanadu uses sensor technology to personalize medicine and Peregrine Falcon Corporation helped design parabolic reflectors for the A1 antenna on the Advanced Microwave Sounding Unit (AMSU-A) flight instrument. It was a pleasure meeting staff members at each and every one of these companies and learning about their continued successes at NASA.

The new fiscal year is just around the corner, and the entire NASA small business team at both Headquarters and the Centers remains focused on integrating small business in the various NASA missions. »



**Glenn A. Delgado**  
*Associate Administrator  
NASA Office of Small  
Business Programs*



**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

**NASA** is the only agency that has a Historically Black College and University (HBCU)/Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) 1 percent goal for both prime contracts and subcontracts.

## » Program Manager Highlight

# How Effective Are the Agency Industry Days?

**Tabisa T. Kalisa, Program Manager**

*NASA Office of Small Business Programs*

In support of small businesses, the White House has requested that all Federal agencies focus outreach efforts on small business socioeconomic categories where agency goal performance is low.

In FY 2012, NASA instituted an annual initiative focused on increasing outreach targeting the socioeconomic categories for which the Agency has not met its goals: SDVOSB, WOSB, and HUBZone concerns. The Agency will continue to focus on these targeted outreach initiatives until its socioeconomic goals in all categories are met.

Annually, the NASA Small Business Specialists (SBSs) volunteer to host one of the industry events in the targeted areas. To date, each Center has hosted an Industry Day.

The first Industry Day was held on February 2, 2012, at Johnson Space Center with 144 companies in attendance and over half categorized as SDVOSB. Since FY12, the OSBP has seen significant growth and interest in these events in the number of attendees, matchmaking sessions, and NASA personnel supporting the events. NASA participation includes Center SBSs, Technical Advisor(s), Technical Coordinator(s), and Office of the Chief

Technologist representatives. The technical personnel are readily available to communicate technical requirements to small businesses. In addition, each Center invites its top ten large businesses currently doing business at the respective Center to discuss and explore subcontracting opportunities. A minimum of 50 percent of the invited industry attendees are required to be in the targeted socioeconomic category.

An effective measurement of success is the growth of attendees at these events, as well as the responses and ratings received from post-event survey data. To further gauge the effectiveness of the Industry Day events, OSBP plans to implement an additional survey to assess networking at the events and how it may effectively influence subsequent awarding of prime or subcontracts. Lastly, data will be generated from various sources, including the Federal Procurement Database System-Next Generation, the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System, and NASA's Office of Procurement. OSBP will continue to send post-event surveys in order to analyze success and capture lessons learned. »

## NASA Mentor-Protégé Program Update

**Tabisa T. Kalisa, Program Manager**

**Melanie A. Osei, Program Analyst (Contractor)**

*NASA Office of Small Business Programs*

The end of the fiscal year is upon us! We are now in the last and final quarter of FY 2015 and are looking forward to highlighting new Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP) updates. The Mentor-Protégé (MP) Corner will feature success stories, program and policy updates, program statistics, and more on a quarterly basis and will be available at <http://www.osbp.nasa.gov>.

### Quarter Recap

OSBP held an annual review on June 24, 2015, at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) between Vencore Services and Solutions (mentor) and Enterprise Advisory Services (EASI), Inc., (protégé), a Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB). The meeting was attended by OSBP MPP Program Manager Tabisa Kalisa, along with KSC Small Business Specialist Joyce McDowell; Jill Schroeder, Joe Broadwater, and Michael Baris of Vencore Services and Solutions; and Barbara Hanna and Tony Johnson of EASI. This 3-year-long Mentor-Protégé Agreement (MPA) has successfully completed the second year and has made large strides in assisting EASI to explore opportunities and other Federal Agency requirements. EASI has proudly doubled employees since the start of the MPA in FY 2013.

### Fiscal Year Closeout

OSBP is on track to end the fiscal year with a strong finish. Five more annual reviews are scheduled in July, August, and September. At the end of July, various Mentor-Protégé liaisons from Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., will provide annual review updates on three active agreements from two different NASA Centers: the Goddard Space Flight Center, with Protégé Advocates in Manpower Management, Inc., (SDB); and Glenn Research Center, with Protégés Quality Assurance and Risk Management Services (8(a)/SDB), Inc., and AlphaPort, Inc., a Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB).

In August, OSBP and Johnson Space Center will host an annual review with Jacobs Technology Group and Protégé GeoControl (WOSB), followed by the annual HUBZone Industry Day on August 11.

The final Mentor-Protégé Annual Review of FY 2015 will be held in September at Marshall Space Flight Center with Mentor, Teledyne Brown Engineering (TBE), and Protégé, MartinFederal, a SDB/Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). TBE has also increased its » *Continued on next page*

## » NASA Mentor-Protégé Program Update (Continued)

NASA MPP footprint by establishing two new Mentor-Protégé Agreements with their first NASA HBCU MPA, Alabama State University, and the Program's first MSI, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The kickoff meetings and agreement-signing ceremony will take place in July.

### FY 2016 Outlook

Looking ahead to FY 2016, OSBP recently launched a new Small Business Industry Awards category: Mentor-Protégé Agreement of the Year. While we work to finalize the details, we are excited to be

able to recognize exuberant and progressive program performance by Mentor-Protégé teams formed under the auspices of NASA's Mentor-Protégé Program. We

look forward to this exciting new addition to the Program. Please check the OSBP Web site for updates. »

**OSBP recently launched a new Small Business Industry Awards category: Mentor-Protégé Agreement of the Year.**

## » NASA Center Highlight NASA Shared Services Center (NSSC)

### Trina Street, Small Business Specialist (Detailee)

*NASA Shared Services Center*

NASA consolidated select business and technical services that were previously performed across the Agency into a single Shared Services Center to increase operational efficiency and improve overall customer service. The consolidation began in March 2005 with the award of the current NSSC Service Provider Contract that was the result of an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-76 (Performance of Commercial Activities) competition. The OMB A-76 competition was the largest ever conducted by NASA and resulted in a contract award to Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC).

CSC was recently awarded the NSSC Next Generation (NSSC Nex-Gen) Support Services Contract. The purpose of the contract is to provide business, administrative, and select technical support services to the NSSC. The contractor shall be responsible for the performance of non-inherently governmental activities supporting a broad range of functional areas including financial management, human resources, procurement, information technology, and business services for NASA.

These services are to be provided to the Government as either transactional or Level of Effort (LOE) support. Transactional services are considered routine and

well-defined and shall be ordered at a fixed price rate per transaction. LOE support will be utilized for non-transactional services, new business opportunities, or special projects that cannot be accurately priced on a fixed-rate per transaction basis. The contract has a potential Period of Performance of up to 8 years with a maximum ordering value of \$480 million.

CSC is currently working with a number of small business subcontractors, many of which are located in the local area, to assist in the success of the NASA Support Services Contract.

Below are the small business subcontractors and the socioeconomic concerns represented:

#### » IT Coalition

4713-A Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22304

Service-Disabled Veteran-  
Owned Small Business

#### » SaiTech, Inc.

10411 Motor City Drive  
Suite 670  
Bethesda, MD 20817

Woman-Owned Small Business  
Small Disadvantaged Business

#### » Pearl River Technologies, LLC

13131 Highway 603  
Suite 202  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Historically Underutilized  
Business Zone Concern

#### » Geocent

111 Veterans Boulevard  
Suite 1600  
Metairie, LA 70005

Small Business

#### » NVision Solutions, Inc.

21294 Johnson Road  
Long Beach, MS 39560

Woman-Owned Small Business

Small Disadvantaged Business

#### » GCS Technology Solutions, Inc.

700 Churchill Parkway  
Avondale, LA 70094

Historically Underutilized  
Business Zone Concern

Woman-Owned Small Business

Small Disadvantaged Business

# » NASA Center Highlight NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

**Ann Haase, Small Business Specialist**  
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

## GSFC Mentor-Protégé Program

The NASA Mentor-Protégé Program has been designed to incentivize NASA prime contractors and assist small businesses in enhancing their capabilities to perform as prime and subcontractors. Since 2008, Goddard Flight Space Center (GSFC) has successfully established a total of 11 Mentor-Protégé Agreements (MPA). These agreements promote and integrate small business into a competitive base of contractors that pioneer the future of space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research, positively impacting NASA missions and projects.

Currently, GSFC has three active MPAs and one MPA currently under review by Headquarters' Office of Small Business Programs. The first MPA is between Raytheon (mentor) and Element 84 (protégé) under the Earth Observing System Data and Information System Evolution and Development Contract (EOSDIS). Raytheon has offered to the protégé practical and executable ideas related to the growth of their company. Element 84 provides key software engineering staff to leading-edge software development efforts to replace the Earth Science Metadata database system with the Common Metadata Repository.

The second MPA is between The Analytical Sciences Corporation (TASC) and MPL Corporation under the Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Services Contract. TASC's increased understanding of its protégé's business strengths and goals have enhanced its ability to partner with MPL Corporation on current and re-competed work. Activities under the MPA are helping the company expand its technical portfolio and enhance its business processes, positioning TASC to pursue new business with MPL Corporation in both prime and subcontracting roles in the near future. MPL Corporation and TASC are also continuing development of technical expertise, particularly in the areas of

cybersecurity and model-based application development.

Finally, the MPA between Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., and Advocates in Manpower Management (AIMM) under the Ground Systems and Mission Operations (GSMO) Contract has enabled Honeywell to gain exposure and marketing access to other markets and customers where AIMM's presence provides related experience and customer knowledge. Further, the MPA has significantly enhanced AIMM's ability to participate in NASA, Federal, and commercial contracts and subcontracts. It has expanded AIMM's core competencies of television production/engineering and systems engineering in the NASA environment and created additional competencies in information technology and mission operations.

## NASA Supply Chain Quality Assurance Conference 2015

The 8th Annual NASA Supply Chain Quality Assurance Conference will be held October 27–29, 2015, at the GSFC campus in Greenbelt, MD. This unique, multidisciplinary conference draws together leaders and practitioners from the space industry and their suppliers, NASA, and other Federal agencies. It is hosted and produced by the Supply Chain Management Team within GSFC's Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate.

## COMING SOON—NASA's GSFC Small Business Conference 2016!

As part of our continuing outreach to the small business community, a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) Small Business Conference is scheduled for August 2016 at the GSFC campus in Greenbelt, MD. The conference will be hosted by the Industry Assistance Office within the Procurement Operation Division. The conference will focus on outreach to HUBZone small businesses to educate and assist them in acquiring contract work directly with NASA and through subcontracting opportunities. »

## Social Media Update

**Tabisa T. Kalisa, Program Manager**  
**Chelsea Gaetani, Program Analyst (Contractor)**

NASA Office of Small Business Programs

The NASA Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) has a Facebook page and Twitter handle! Why? Because NASA OSBP would like the public to have instant access to small business information. Whether it is news that impacts the small business community, outreach and matchmaking events, or procurement opportunities, we want to simplify the process.

Please take a moment to like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NASASmallBusiness>.



Follow us on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/NASA\\_OSBP](http://twitter.com/NASA_OSBP).



Also, tune in to Glenn's blog at <http://nasaosbp.blogspot.com>.

It will take only a few minutes of your time, and we would love to hear from you!



## OSBP Newsletter Article Submission Schedule

DEADLINE:	PUBLISHED:
January 15th	March
April 15th	June
July 15th	September
October 15th	December

## » NASA Center Highlight

# NASA Langley Research Center

### Randy Manning, Small Business Specialist

NASA Langley Research Center

#### Advanced Aerospace Solutions (AdvAero)

Advanced Aerospace Solutions (AdvAero), LLC, the 2014 Agency-Level NASA Small Business Subcontractor of the Year, completed the second flight test of the Traffic Aware Strategic Aircrew Request (TASAR) System on June 21, 2015. From the award of the contract in February 2012 through the final post-flight test phase of the contract, AdvAero has been a proactive participant. AdvAero's ability to see the big picture, find innovative ways to add value to the effort, and work together with the prime contractor to solve technical challenges are key to it being a small business success story.

First, a few words about TASAR: It is a new NASA concept for aircraft operations featuring an onboard automation tool that computes route changes to improve flight efficiency while avoiding conflicts with traffic and other hazards, making Air Traffic Control (ATC) approval of the route change more likely. The Agency anticipates that the technology will save fuel and reduce flight time, as well as improve flight schedules, passenger comfort, and pilot and controller workload. The concept integrates and leverages three elements critical to the advancement of future autonomy in aircraft operations: advanced trajectory-planning automation, the emerging NextGen air-to-air traffic surveillance system, and networked connectivity to an array of Internet-based information sources. The prime contractor for the development of the TASAR hardware/software prototype is the Engility Corporation. Engility Corporation teamed with AdvAero to take TASAR from concept formulation to operational readiness on an aggressive schedule because of their expertise in flight testing, avionics certification, and flight operations.

Upon award of the contract, Engility Corporation assigned to AdvAero complete responsibility and authority for planning and conducting the in-flight assessment of the Traffic Aware Planner (TAP) software application. AdvAero performed this task professionally, proactively, thoroughly, and

without misstep from day one, well before the TAP software was even designed. As a prime example, AdvAero came prepared to the contract kickoff meeting at Langley Research Center (LaRC), 1 month into the period of performance, with a detailed "courtesy briefing" for the chairman of the Langley Aviation Safety Review Board (ASRB) regarding the flight-test aircraft and the anticipated requirements for ASRB operational approval. Reacting to the quality and thoroughness of the presentation, the chairman immediately granted the TASAR project a waiver from

The Avanti test bed aircraft is also used as a charter aircraft when it's not being used in flight testing. This dual capability brought a benefit, which would have a singularly profound effect on the success of the flight trial. That benefit was the opportunity to leverage the Avanti's regular charter flights for testing the integration of the TAP software at no added cost to the project. These additional iterations of testing in the actual aircraft and operational environment, as made possible by AdvAero's initiative, were critical to technical success and to keeping the flight trial on sched-

**AdvAero performed this task professionally, proactively, thoroughly, and without misstep from day one....**

the normal preliminary briefing given to the full ASRB, thereby accelerating the entire approval process and reducing the associated costs to the prime contractor. The same seamless professional effort has been repeated throughout the contract in all of AdvAero's activities.

AdvAero also added essential "real-world" knowledge and experience to the Engility Corporation team, which was primarily experienced in developing avionics technology for a simulation environment. For example, AdvAero identified and recommended the use of the Aircraft Interface Device (AID) hardware to enable TAP to use industry-standard connections for receiving data from the aircraft's avionics systems. The AID has since become a critical part of the current TASAR design, enabling portability to multiple aircraft. Further, AdvAero served a critical liaison role between Engility Corporation and NASA's partner airlines, with which they share an in-depth knowledge of flight operations and avionics certification.

ule. This is an example of nimble, out-of-the-box-type thinking often brought to the effort by a small research and development business that could be overlooked easily by a large business.

AdvAero's success story is NASA's success story. From the beginning of the contract through the recently completed second flight test, AdvAero has been a fully participating team member. When problems arose, they came to the table with solutions. AdvAero has also gone the extra mile in supporting NASA's outreach efforts by sharing their own company's media publicity opportunities with NASA, allowing the TASAR project to share the spotlight. These media events have included interviews with *Aviation Week & Space Technology* and the *Montreal Gazette*, both of which led to published articles, as well as a filming opportunity with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

AdvAero's proactive nature—and its forward thinking and solution finding ethos—is ingrained in its corporate culture. Seeing the

» [Continued on next page](#)

## » NASA Center Highlight (Continued)



need for highly sophisticated aeronautical research to manage air traffic as the skies become more congested, AdvAero selected and customized the Avanti aircraft to be able to conduct “come as you are” aeronautical research and development (R&D) efforts. “Come as you are” R&D means the Avanti is equipped to handle nearly any

type of R&D without further modification to the aircraft. Some of the customizations which enable the “come as you are” R&D efforts are triple-redundant systems—extensive data firewalls and a massive data backbone enabling researchers to access all of the aircraft’s advanced data streams. Additionally, the Avanti has been certified

for single-pilot operations, allowing the right seat of the cockpit to fully focus on the research being conducted. The Avanti also has a very broad flight envelope with performance capabilities that can replicate almost any jet platform, making it ideally suited to most NextGen R&D involving interval management, Remote Terminal Access (RTA), closely spaced parallel approaches, and many other investigations. These features are just the tip of the iceberg of the Avanti’s capabilities, which enable AdvAero to support nearly any aeronautical R&D project for either Government or private sector customers.

AdvAero’s success has also been a success for NASA in two ways. First, as a highly capable subcontractor providing vital technical services to the TASAR customer. Second, as a small business that has helped the NASA LaRC Office of Procurement achieve its small business contracting goals. In the procurement arena, it is always a challenge to find technically capable small businesses with the capacity to conduct NASA’s highly specialized R&D. AdvAero is just such a business. »

## » NASA Small Business Legislative Update

# Reservations for Small Business in ID/IQ Contracts

**Eve Lyon, Attorney-Advisor**

*NASA Headquarters Office of the General Counsel*

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), in the case of Delex Systems, Inc., B-400403, held that the “rule of two” applied to orders under Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) contracts. The General Services Administration (GSA) stated a statutory change was needed before the “rule of two” applied to orders because the “rule of two” would limit/erode “fair opportunities” for consideration. The Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 ended this debate, giving contracting officers the discretion to set aside orders for small business. This authority is in section 8.405-5 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and has been effective since November 2011. The specifics regarding how contracting officers exercise this discretion is in proposed rule FAR 2014-002, Set-Asides under Multiple Award Contracts.

The current lack of detail regarding set-asides for orders resulted in two separate issues. The first issue involved an allegation by the Ombudsman at the Small Business Administration (SBA) that the NASA Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) IV contract violated FAR’s Limitation on Subcontracting clause. The SEWP contract had specific categories for set-asides. One disappointed offeror in a competition involving a set-aside category claimed the awardee did not meet the Limitation on Subcontracting requirements. The FAR modified the clause in FAR 52.219-14 to include orders set aside for small businesses in November 2011—the same time section 8.405-5 was changed. SEWP updated 52.219-14 when it updated all the terms and conditions in the contract. However, SEWP » [Continued on next page](#)

## » NASA Small Business Legislative Update (Continued)

did not notice the modification to 52.219-14. Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) told the SBA Ombudsman that SEWP IV had applied the limitation on subcontracting at the overall contract level since the contract was awarded on May 1, 2007. However, GSFC also said SEWP would apply the limitation on subcontracting at the order level when the follow-on contract went into effect.

The second issue involved the use of a small business set-aside under a Federal Supply Schedule (FSS). Stennis Space Center (SSC) wanted to ensure the contractor would be a small business when the order for Information Technology Services (ITS) was awarded. The Request for Proposal (RFP) required offerors to go into the System for Awards Management (SAM) and confirm their size status as of the date they submit their proposal. Two offerors refused to comply. SSC issued an amendment explicitly requiring offerors to “recertify their size status in response to the RFP.” One of the other small offerors withdrew its proposal; the second offeror did nothing. During clarifications, the second offeror explained that “a concern that qualified as a small business at the time it receives a contract is considered a small business throughout the life of that contract.” (Generally, contractors have 5 years before they are required to recertify their size.) 13 C.F.R. §121.404 (a)(1)



(i), however, gives contracting officers the discretion to request a new size certification in connection with a specific order.

Lesson learned: It is an excellent idea to ask offerors to recertify size when reserving orders for small businesses to ensure the award goes to a small business. Use of the term “recertify” is vital to trigger this discretion in the eyes of the SBA’s Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA). »

## » NASA Mission Directorate Spotlight

### Joseph Grant Ph.D., SBIR/STTR Deputy Program Executive

*NASA Headquarters Science Technology Mission Directorate*

NASA’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program is a competitive, awards-based program that encourages American small businesses, including women-owned and disadvantaged firms, to pursue Federal research, technology development, and commercialization. Small businesses annually create about two out of every three jobs in the United States, and about half of the American workforce either owns or works for a small business. The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program facilitates collaboration between qualified small businesses and research institutions to address specific technology gaps in NASA’s programs and complement other NASA research investments. In April 2015, NASA issued press releases 15-063 and 15-073 announcing its selections for program year 2015 SBIR Phase I and program year 2014 STTR Phase II proposals, respectively, to enter contract award negotiations. These were in response to NASA’s

SBIR, STTR, and Select SBIR solicitations issued in November 2014. Technical work then commenced in mid-June 2015 under contracts.

Phase I feasibility studies—worth up to \$125,000 for six months—evaluate scientific and technical merit. Of 1,285 Phase I proposals received, NASA selected 381, including 324 SBIR, 7 Select SBIR, and 50 STTR proposals. These projects have a total value of \$47.7 million, supporting 254 U.S. small businesses and 39 research institutions. Examples of the research funded include technologies that will enable space transportation for human and robotic missions, more capable air traffic management systems, and technologies that will study the universe back to the beginning of time.

Firms that successfully complete Phase I are eligible to compete for Phase II projects, which build upon Phase I results. Phase II projects range up to \$750,000 for 24 months, and Select Phase II projects

can go up to \$1.5 million for 24 months. Of 352 Phase II proposals received, NASA selected 149, including 119 SBIR, 9 Select SBIR, and 21 STTR proposals. These projects have a total value of \$118.1 million, supporting 117 U.S. small businesses and research institutions in 26 states. They will help enable a broad range of future NASA missions while benefiting the American technology-driven economy. Examples of funded research include projects to develop efficient energy and power systems for human and robotic spacecraft, design new concepts for in-space propulsion, advance telescope technologies to enable a new class of critical observatories, build next-generation sensors to study Earth, and create robotic technologies to explore other planets.

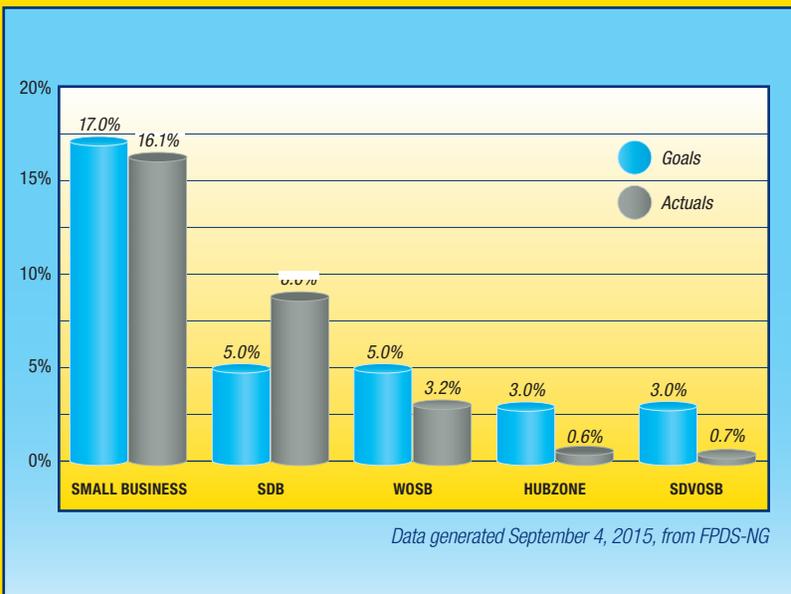
“The selected proposals demonstrate the ingenuity and creativity of America’s small businesses,” said Steve Jurczyk, Associate Administrator for the Space Technology » [Continued on next page](#)

# Metrics Update

Melanie A. Osei, Program Analyst (Contractor)

NASA Office of Small Business Programs

FY 2015 NASA Agency Prime Goals vs. Actual Percentages	
As of September 4, 2015	
Category	Dollars
<b>Total Dollars</b>	<b>\$13,313,872,909</b>
<b>Small Business</b>	\$2,146,910,455
<b>SDB</b>	\$1,064,748,094
<b>WOSB</b>	\$428,245,718
<b>HUBZone</b>	\$74,911,534
<b>SDVOSB</b>	\$87,098,485



## » NASA Mission Directorate Spotlight (Continued)

Mission Directorate (STMD) at NASA Headquarters in Washington, where the SBIR and STTR Programs are managed. “These businesses are enabling NASA’s future missions, as we journey to Mars. The SBIR and STTR Programs ensure the Agency is benefiting from the passionate and determined minds of the private sector.”

The SBIR and STTR Programs issue two solicitations annually. Both the General and Select 2016 Solicitations are expected to open in November 2016 and close in January 2017. For more details, visit: <http://www.sbir.nasa.gov>. »

## OSBP Web Site

The NASA OSBP Web site helps individuals and companies to navigate small business policies, procedures, and best practices at NASA.

The purpose of the Web site, <http://www.osbp.nasa.gov>, is to share the vision of the Small Business Program at NASA, as well as provide pertinent information on how to do business with NASA.



<http://osbp.nasa.gov>



## Fiscal Year 2015

Small Business Awards

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

Go to <http://osbp.nasa.gov/award.html> for more information about the Small Business Awards Nominations.

# » NASA Office of the Chief Scientist Spotlight

## Access and Innovation: 2015 Highlights from NASA's Office of the Chief Scientist

**Sarah Dewitt, Public Outreach Manager**

*NASA Headquarters Office of the Chief Scientist*

Two major focus areas for NASA's Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) are 1) fostering communication and coordination within and outside the science community at NASA, and 2) identifying exciting and emerging areas of science research and supporting their development through cooperation with NASA's engineering and technology organizations.

Working toward the first focus area, OCS led the development of NASA's "Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research" plan, issued in response to the Executive Office of the President's February 22, 2013, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Memorandum, "Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research," for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies. NASA invests approximately \$3 billion annually in fundamental and applied research and technology development across a broad range of topics, including space and Earth sciences, life and physical sciences, human health, aeronautics, and technology. Promoting the full and open sharing of data with research communities and private industry—including small business, academia, and the general public—is one of NASA's long-standing core values. This plan, issued in December 2014, expands the breadth of NASA's open-access culture to include data and publications for all of the scientific research the Agency sponsors.

To work toward the second focus area, OCS has established the Science Innovation Fund (SIF) to invest in innovative, exploratory, high-risk/high-return research activities that are aligned with

NASA's strategic goals and objectives. The SIF is open to all NASA civil servants and encourages the development of new investigations that stress innovation, exploration, and/or the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed work. Also encouraged are projects that invite members of the public to participate in the scientific process through collecting and analyzing data, interpreting results, developing data applications, and other unique and innovative ways. Early results of the SIF include research publications, new grants, and even a patent. By investing in innovative scientific research, NASA is providing new data and tools to users, including small businesses around the world.

**In 2015, OCS established a new Agency-wide citizen science forum to bring together individuals around NASA who have an interest in citizen science.**

### OSBP Staff

The OSBP team is committed to providing excellence in service and information to the small business community.

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In 2015, OCS established a new Agency-wide citizen science forum to bring together individuals around NASA who have an interest in citizen science. The idea that members of the public can play meaningful roles in data collection analysis and other aspects of scientific research is catching on throughout scientific communities and organizations, including many within the Federal Government. NASA already has several activities going on in this area, and more are coming online as the community grows. NASA is eager to bring out-of-discipline perspectives to bear in solving science- and technology-related problems and to offer opportunities for various members of the public, including the small business community, to propose solutions to key challenges NASA faces. OCS's view is that citizen science, in its various forms, is a tool with potential benefits for NASA, its various science objectives, and participating members of the public. By regularly convening players across NASA who have experience with and are excited about the possibilities of citizen science for NASA, we are learning from our collective experiences and developing strategies to facilitate and enhance the use of these tools within the Agency. »