Success at Marshall Space Flight Center
Dynasty Continues as Marshall Wins Fifth Small Business Administrator’s Cup

Brian C. Massey, Editor
The Marshall Star, ARSC Federal/Analytical Services

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden was at the Marshall Space Flight Center May 20 to award the 2016 Small Business Administrator’s Cup. For the second straight year, and the fifth time in the award’s 8-year history, he awarded the cup to Marshall.


“From the Space Launch System to the International Space Station to all the important work being done here day-in and day-out to support businesses large, medium, and small, there is one very large conclusion we can all come to—the journey to Mars runs through Marshall,” said Bolden.

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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.
Success at Marshall Space Flight Center (continued)

“Small businesses are playing a big part in our journey to Mars,” said Marshall Center Director Todd May. “Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy, and here at Marshall we know that they are also the backbone of exploration.”

Marshall’s fifth Administrator’s Cup cements the Center’s dynasty, Bolden said. “You’re only one championship ring away from matching Michael Jordan’s Chicago Bulls.”

As with any dynasty, every team needs a superstar, like Jordan, leading the offense. For Marshall, that superstar is David Brock, Small Business Specialist.

“Brock’s leadership in supporting small business is second-to-none,” said Bolden. “You often hear me refer to him as a ‘national treasure.’ That’s because he is.”

“We have implemented many of Marshall and Brock’s programs Agency wide,” said Glenn Delgado, NASA’s Associate Administrator of the Office of Small Business Programs, who was also on hand for the presentation. “There’s no question, of all the small business specialists, he is the best of the best.”

“Marshall has one of the best small business teams in the Federal Government,” added Delgado. “The way they integrate industry and the senior management support is a model for the Agency—as their five Administrator’s Cups can attest.”

“This achievement wouldn’t be possible without the full support of our management across all organizations,” said Brock. “Creativity can only come through collaboration. It takes a team to innovate. This award is for the team, and I give them full credit. I am lucky to be part of the team, and I thank them very much.”

“Success, however, does not lie in the achievement of the success, it lies in the journey to achieve the success,” Brock continued. “Today we have achieved another milestone in the program, but the journey continues. Hopefully there will be many more milestones along the journey.”

For more information about the NASA Small Business Administrator’s Cup Award and NASA’s Office of Small Business Programs, go to http://www.osbp.nasa.gov. ➤

Small Business Specialist Spotlight

Natalie B. Colvin, Small Business Specialist

NASA Kennedy Space Center

In 1948, my grandfather purchased more than 200 acres of farming land in South Georgia. My mother was an only child, so when my grandfather suffered a massive stroke in 1968 and was unable to care for the farm, our family moved from South Carolina to Lumber City, GA, a town so small it often doesn’t appear on a map. My father had been a mill worker and knew nothing about farming. Over the following years, our family of seven learned the fine art of farming together. My most distinct childhood memories are of working together as a family on the farm. It was a very difficult time for us, but it cemented our family together as nothing else could. These circumstances instilled in me a strong work ethic, which I believe to be the most valuable character trait anyone can possess.

In 1985, I earned my bachelor of business administration degree in business information systems from Georgia College and State University. During the spring of my senior year, representatives from Robins Air Force Base attended a job fair recruiting anyone interested in becoming a Contract Specialist. I had no idea what a Contract Specialist was, but applied for the job anyway. In August of 1985, I was hired as a GS-1102 series. At Robins Air Force Base, I met and married Mitch, my husband of 30 years. Soon after, we transferred to the Marine Corp Logistics Base in Albany, GA. This move introduced us to key contacts and played a major role in our move to Kennedy Space Center.

In 1992, our second child was born so I made the decision to resign from NASA. For 22 years I was away from civil service. I am grateful for the opportunity to raise three wonderful children. Our oldest son Mitchell recently graduated from Florida State’s School of Nursing, our middle child Hunter is a cadet at the United States Air Force Academy, and our daughter Emma is a junior in high school. During this time, I also became a substitute teacher and later a middle school science educator. This experience permits me to say, “I don’t scare easily. I’ve been a middle school teacher!” I have a deep and profound respect for our Nation’s teachers. They are truly unsung heroes.

I am now back and excited to be a member of the Central Industry Assistance Office (CIAO) at Kennedy Space Center. At the CIAO, we advocate for small business on Center and at outreach events across the Nation. As I meet representatives of small businesses and learn of their capabilities, I feel a great responsibility to provide guidance to each as they strive to find their place within NASA’s missions. As the Agency pursues its next milestone, the Journey to Mars, and as KSC repositions itself as America’s preeminent spaceport, small businesses must be technologically prepared. Many have proven they are up for the challenge. Our goal at the CIAO is to greatly increase the role and number of small businesses that assist in realizing NASA’s mission objectives.

It’s an exciting time! I feel extremely privileged to once again be a part of NASA at Kennedy Space Center, where unique missions, unimagined just a few years ago, are now unfolding just outside my window!” ➤
Predicted by Albert Einstein 100 years ago, gravitational waves are ripples in the fabric of space-time propagating at the speed of light. They are emitted by massive bodies in acceleration, such as colliding black holes and exploding stars, and carry the imprints of those bodies’ physical properties, traveling through space unimpeded by the intervening dust and gas. Recently, gravitational waves were detected for the first time with ground-based experiments, providing a new window through which to study the universe.

In 1998, the NASA Glenn Research Center awarded a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) contract to the Busek Company of Natick, MA, for “Colloid Thrusters for Micro and Nano-Satellites.” This contract demonstrated the feasibility of an ultra-precise micro-propulsion system. This new electrospray thruster generates a maximum force of just 30 micro-Newton—equivalent to the weight of a common mosquito—and has a precision of just 0.1 micro-Newton (about the weight of the mosquito’s antenna). This exquisite control is needed to balance minute forces exerted on a spacecraft, allowing nearly perfect “drag-free” flight.

This success led to a Phase II award and follow-on SBIR contracts from NASA, the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). By 2001, the thruster hardware was delivered to NASA for evaluation testing, and the following year the Busek Company and JPL teamed to win a New Millennium Space Technology 7 mission to demonstrate a “Disturbance Reduction System (DRS)” on the LISA Pathfinder mission using Busek’s thrusters.

The thrusters were loaded with propellant in 2008 and delivered as part of the DRS to ESA in 2009. LISA Pathfinder launched on December 3, 2015, and all of the thrusters are working well.

We will soon know whether the technologies flying on LISA Pathfinder will provide the accuracy and control needed for a gravitational wave detection mission. In the meantime, this new thruster technology has already led to further innovations in diagnostics, propellants, and micro-fabrication methods at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Yale University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This effort has also led to additional work sponsored by the Department of Defense and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). With exciting technologies developed by small businesses, we continue to push the boundaries of what is possible.

For additional information on the LISA Pathfinder, visit [http://sci.esa.int/lisa-pathfinder/56417--lisa-pathfinders-science-module-and-solar-array/](http://sci.esa.int/lisa-pathfinder/56417--lisa-pathfinders-science-module-and-solar-array/)
I would like to start off this edition of my AA’s Corner by saying how impressed I was with our first NASA Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Serving Institutions (HBCUs/MSIs) Technology Infusion Road Tour at North Carolina Central University held March 22–24, 2016. I was able to attend the first 2 days of the event. I thoroughly enjoyed the open forum Q&A, and the tour of the science department was amazing. One part of the tour that grabbed my attention was the student’s research on tigerfish and the reaction the fish had to alcohol and other substances.

NASA’s HBCUs/MSIs Technology Infusion Road Tour is a new initiative in FY16 to help our large prime contractors increase engagements with HBCUs/MSIs. Not only is this initiative designed to help educational institutions integrate new technology that supports the Agency’s mission, but it also aids NASA in making and exceeding our 1 percent goal for HBCUs/MSIs.

The Spring FY16 NASA Industry Forum (NIF) held its fifth meeting at NASA Headquarters March 8–9, 2016. The group is finally gelling and fulfilling its vision that, as most know, has exceeded my expectations. We are working toward a new Success Story publication that will be released this fall, and we have started to use new media tools to digitally collaborate as a group. I am proud to be a part of such a well-rounded group of people and am looking forward to the next meeting this fall at Stennis Space Center (SSC).

Lesa Roe, Deputy Associate Administrator of the Office of the Administrator, was very impressed with the NIF’s enthusiasm and initiatives, in light of the fact that NIF members use their own time to volunteer and to be a part of the forum’s actions and initiatives.

I also wanted to thank Deputy Associate Administrator Roe for taking the time out of her busy schedule to assist me in handing out the Agency-Level FY15 Small Business Industry Awards (SBIA). Congratulations on all five companies that received this prestigious recognition. Your hard work and effort are greatly appreciated, as is your dedication to NASA and our various missions.

Congratulations to Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) on becoming the recipient of the Agency’s FY15 Small Business Administrator’s Cup Award. MSFC has received this honor, which recognizes the NASA center with the best overall small business program, five times since its inception in 2008. Kudos to MSFC for a job well done!

On May 3, 2016, we held our Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Industry Day at Glenn Research Center (GRC). The event went smoothly with a big turnout of engaging attendees. It is always nice to see aspiring small businesses have the opportunity to establish relationships with us, oftentimes through networking or matchmaking appointments that we offer with each of our Centers’ Small Business Specialists.

I am deeply saddened to share that Teresa Monaco, the Small Business Specialist at GRC, retired on March 31, 2016. Teresa’s can-do attitude was a huge asset to the Small Business Program, and she will be missed. Thank you, Teresa, for your hard work and for being part of the small business council throughout the years. Enjoy your retirement!

I also want to say farewell and thank you to Dudley Cannon, Procurement Officer, Kennedy Space Center, for his hard work in support of the Agency’s Small Business Program. Cannon previously received the Office of Small Business Programs Small Business Champion Recognition, which is a high achievement and one that is awarded sparingly. Dudley, enjoy your retirement as well!

In closing, I encourage the Small Business Program at NASA to continue to excel in what we do best—small business. I wish everyone a relaxing and safe summer. Enjoy your time off if you are taking some vacation time with family or loved ones. As always, thank you for your continued support of the NASA Small Business Program.

Over 800 small businesses are contributing to the success of the Space Launch System program.

Check them out in our new publication, Space Launch System: A Case for Small Business
Dudley R. Cannon, Jr., retired March 31, 2016, as Kennedy Space Center’s (KSC) Procurement Director following 39 years of distinguished and highly decorated public service. After completing 4 years of active duty in the United States Air Force as Judge Advocate General, Cannon entered into the Air Force Reserves and KSC’s workforce as Assistant Chief Counsel in 1986. Just 10 years later, he received NASA’s Exceptional Service Medal for “significant performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability.”

Cannon was appointed as Kennedy Space Center’s Procurement Director in 2004. During the next 12 years, he provided an invaluable steady hand, leading a crucial acquisition and contract management organization. As KSC’s mission transitioned from the Shuttle and Constellation programs to the Journey to Mars, the Commercial Crew Program, and the Center’s repositioning as America’s Spaceport, Cannon excelled in aligning KSC’s procurement objectives with NASA’s strategic goals. His integrity, dedication, and vision fostered a highly productive team and positive culture within the Office of Procurement.

In 2009, under Cannon’s leadership, KSC received NASA’s Small Business Administrator’s Cup Award in recognition of the Center’s dedication to the Agency’s mission, coupled with an ever-increasing commitment to providing contracting opportunities to small businesses. For his continued commitment to small business, Cannon was recognized in 2011 and again in 2015 with the Agency’s Small Business Program Champion Award.

KSC’s Small Business Specialist, Joyce McDowell, attributes much of the Center’s small business success to Cannon, stating, “It was inspiring to work with Dudley. His professionalism and advocacy for small business has had a tremendous impact on the program.”

Cannon retired as a lieutenant colonel from the United States Air Force, where he held a reserve commission as a Judge Advocate. During this time, he earned the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, as well as the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster. Just prior to exiting Kennedy Space Center on his last day of Federal service, Cannon offered sincere words of appreciation to his “Office of Procurement family” for contributions, support, and friendship over the years. KSC Director Robert Cabana stated the Agency’s loss succinctly: “Your professionalism, technical expertise, and leadership will be sorely missed.”

Cannon will continue on his next odyssey that will include extensive travels with Diane, his beautiful wife of 41 years, as well as forays into the worlds of cooking, eating, and gardening. “He’s an explorer at heart,” said Diane, “so we will explore the future together.”

“His integrity, dedication, and vision fostered a highly productive team and positive culture within the Office of Procurement.”
This year, NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) in Cleveland, OH, celebrates its 75th anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, the Center is hosting multiple events, including two open houses. GRC’s Lewis Field main campus opened to the public May 21 and 22, 2016, and Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, OH, held its open house June 11 and 12, 2016.

“These events offer families an opportunity to tour our world-class facilities, meet astronauts and talk with scientists, engineers, and technicians working on the Nation’s space and aeronautics programs,” said David DeFelice, project manager for Glenn’s 75th anniversary celebration.

GRC was founded on January 23, 1941, as the Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory, part of NASA’s predecessor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. The laboratory was charged with improving the state of aircraft engines, which was accelerated to keep pace with the emerging fields of jet engines and rocket propulsion for commercial and military systems. Over the years, GRC has been renamed, most recently on March 1, 1999, when the Lewis Research Center named after George W. Lewis was changed to John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field. Despite the name changes, GRC has continued to drive research, technology, and systems to advance aviation, enable exploration of the universe, and improve life on Earth. The Center’s world-class test facilities, large wind tunnels, research aircraft, and more than 100 laboratories have positioned GRC as the premier center for aerospace testing and technology maturation.

As one of GRC’s 75th anniversary year activities, NASA’s Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) and NASA Glenn Research Center, in conjunction with Cuyahoga County Community College’s Corporate College East in Warrensville Heights, OH, hosted a Women-Owned Small Business Industry Day on May 3, 2016. The Industry Day was designed to provide a unique networking environment for women who own small businesses by bringing them together with leaders in the aerospace industry.

While any business is welcome to attend, NASA’s objective is to have a minimum of 50 percent of the industry attendees be women-owned. This objective stems from an Agency-wide initiative focused on increasing outreach in low-performing socioeconomic sectors. Kaprice Harris, Chief of the Procurement Division stated, “My objective is to facilitate an environment for knowledge sharing and networking among companies. I’m proud to say our Center continues to excel in its small business goals.”

The Greater Cleveland Partnership Commission on Economic Inclusion has nominated Glenn Research Center again for its Best in Class award for supplier diversity in 2016. The award acknowledges supplier diversity successes and innovative practices. NASA GRC won the award in 2015. The Center exceeded its 2016 goal of 60.1 percent by awarding 82.6 percent of its total procurement dollars to small businesses. Each subcategory goal was exceeded as well. In the Small Disadvantaged Business category, the 33 percent goal was exceeded by 22.7 percent. The 10.1 percent Women-Owned Small Business category goal was exceeded by 7.4 percent at 17.4 percent. The goals for HUBZone and Service-Disabled Veteran–Owned Small Business were exceeded as well. NASA GRC continues to strive for excellence in achieving all of its small business goals and continues to support opportunities to assist small businesses in obtaining procurement dollars. Small businesses are essential to supporting research and development at GRC and providing economic growth to the Northeast Ohio area.

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://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
In the last newsletter publication, we introduced the Historically Black College and University/Minority-Serving Institution (HBCU/MSI) Technology Infusion Road Tour. We are pleased to announce the completion of two Road Tours at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Please review the Program Manager Spotlight for highlights and event photos.

During our visit to the University of Texas at El Paso for the Road Tour, we had the pleasure of holding our annual reviews with two current mentors and protégés with agreements based out of Johnson Space Center. The first review, held with Jacobs Technology, Inc., mentor, and GeoControl, protégé, was the last review, as the agreement will come to an end in July 2016. GeoControl, a small disadvantaged, woman-owned and HUBZone business, supported Jacobs Technology at the White Sands Test Facility. In addition, GeoControl was able to identify core capabilities related to facility support services and identify teaming opportunities with Jacobs, which has led to the awarding of the follow-on contract for Test and Evaluation Support Team 2. Congratulations to both Jacobs Technology and GeoControl for strengthening the synergy and trust between the two management teams and also to Jacobs for exceeding contract socioeconomic category goals.

OSBP was especially proud and would like to thank GeoControl for participating in the Road Tour discussions at the University of Texas at El Paso. Project manager Richard Gorham presented GeoControl's success stories as a participating NASA protégé and Michael Zarcaro, vice president and business manager, participated in a panel on how HBCUs/MSIs can find large prime contractors/mentors. Thank you GeoControl, Richard, and Michael for participating in the Road Tour and NASA's Mentor-Protégé Program!

Our second Mentor-Protégé Annual Review with Jacobs Technology, Inc., and HX5, LLC, discussed major accomplishments during the first year of the agreement. Since April 2015, HX5 has reached major milestones with Jacobs Technology, the mentor, with various project manager and engineering training that has provided knowledge to assist with the development of a home brewing application. Johnson Space Center Small Business Specialist Charles Williams was very impressed and agreed this is an example of how the agreement is working; the protégé takes training provided by a mentor and applies it to create additional applications. In addition, HX5 has received quality management systems training to begin the process of AS9100 certification, as well as business development training. In the upcoming year, additional training will be provided to earn safety and mission assurance certification and more.

We look forward to hearing the progress made over the next year with the Jacobs Technology and HX5 Mentor-Protégé Agreement.

**Bittersweet… Expiring Mentor-Protégé Agreements**

**Mentor: Vencore Services and Solutions**  
**Protégé: Enterprise Advisory Services, Inc. (EASI)**  
**Center: Kennedy Space Center**

In March, Vencore Services and Solutions and Enterprise Advisory Services, Inc. (EASI) concluded their Mentor-Protégé Agreement. EASI received technical assistance over the 3-year agreement, including mechanical design and fabrication, systems engineering and integration, electrical design and much more, while also receiving business development training and GSA schedule proposal assistance.

**Mentor: Hamilton Sundstrand Space Systems, Inc. (HSSSI)**  
**Protégé: Mathematical Researchers, Inc. (MRI)**  
**Center: Johnson Space Center**

In April of FY16, Hamilton Sundstrand Space Systems, Inc. (HSSSI) and Mathematical Researchers, Inc. (MRI) concluded their Mentor-Protégé Agreement. Winning the first ever NASA Mentor-Protégé Agreement of the Year Award, HSSSI and MRI successfully concluded their 3-year agreement.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate our newest mentor and protégé, URS Federal Services and Seabrook Solutions, Inc. This Mentor-Protégé Agreement based out of Marshall Space Flight Center will provide Seabrook Solutions, Inc., technical and business development assistance for 12 months. We look forward to hearing the progress and wonderful success stories from this agreement.
The Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) offered an overview of the HBCU/MSI Road Tour initiative and objectives in the NASA Mentor-Protégé Update section of the OSBP spring 2016 newsletter. Since then, we have actively participated in two stops on the tour, with the third stop coming up September 26–29, 2016. The tour thus far has been very successful, and this success would not have been possible without collaboration with the Office of Education (OE) and Science Technology Mission Directorate (STMD), as well as the university faculty, small business specialists, technology infusion managers, and prime contractors.

The first stop on the HBCU/MSI Road Tour was North Carolina Central University (NCCU), March 20–22, 2016. The NCCU hostess was Dr. Undi Hoffler, Interim Vice Chancellor and Director, Research Compliance and Technology Transfer with the Division of Research and Economic Development, who kicked off the event by providing opening remarks. The Office of Small Business Programs, Office of Education, the Space Technology Mission Directorate, and the Army Materiel Command gave a series of presentations to the NCCU faculty and the visiting schools. They in turn provided insight into their core capabilities and outlined how they could help the Agency achieve its mission.

The NASA representatives, primes, and various universities in attendance were given a tour of the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Institute and the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE). They also toured the NSF Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology/NASA University Research Center and the NCCU Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab), both located in the Mary Townes Science Complex. Many of the attendees also had the experience of participating in their first poster session highlighting NCCU students’ projects, theories, and dissertations.

The second stop on the HBCU/MSI Road Tour was the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), April 19–21, 2016. Dr. Ahsan Choudhuri, Professor and Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Macintosh Murchison, Chair II in Engineering, Director, NASA MPRO Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research at UTEP; Rogelio Curiel, Contract Officer at White Sands Test Facility, Johnson Space Center; and Mark Davis, Technology Infusion Manager, Armstrong Flight Research Center getting an overview of UTEP’s capabilities.
NASA Small Business Procurement Update
Open FAR Small Business Cases (Summary)

Todd T. Lacks, Procurement Analyst
NASA Headquarters Office of Procurement

The wheels of procurement policy turn slowly. If you remember laws being passed and have seen nothing implementing the procurement policy, you’re in luck. The latest status for all FAR Small Business Cases can be found on the Web. The PDF file listed below contains the title of the case, a brief synopsis of the policy change, and the current status. The file is up to date as of May 9, 2016, and if you are looking for small business cases it helps to have the case number. As you can see, the small business cases go back to 2012 legislation, but some of the other cases go back to 2010.

- 2016-002, Applicability of Small Business Regulations Outside the United States
- 2015-032, Sole-Source Contracts for Women-Owned Small Businesses
- 2015-031, Policy on 8(a) Joint Ventures (NASA-initiated case)
- 2014-015, Consolidation and Bundling
- 2014-004, Payment of Subcontractors
- 2014-003, Small Business Subcontracting Improvements
- 2014-002, Set-Asides under Multiple-Award Contracts
- 2013-018, Clarification of Requirements for Justifications for 8(a) Sole-Source Contracts
- 2012-022, Contracts under the SBA 8(a) Program
- 2012-015, Small Business Set-Asides for R&D Contracts

Latest status can be found here: http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/dars/opencases/farcasenum/far.pdf

Program Manager Highlight (continued)

message by NASA’s Administrator Charles Bolden. She commended the Road Tour objectives and the Agency for harnessing the knowledge and expertise at universities that are not familiar with NASA procedures and programs. The group was afforded the opportunity to tour a few of UTEP’s engineering buildings, including the W. M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation, the NASA MIRO Center for Space Exploration and Technology Research, and UTEP’s learning facilities.

OSBP would like to thank the following schools that have attended and presented at both stops of the HBCU/MSI Road Tour: Elizabeth City State University; North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University; Shaw University; Florida State University; St. Augustine University; Delaware State University; University of Texas, San Antonio; University of Texas, Arlington; Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University; San Jose State University; Virginia State University; Vantage College; Savannah State University; and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

OSBP would also like to thank the prime contractors that participated in sessions and supported these events. In particular, Vaneza Lopez with Aerojet Rocketdyne, Dorian Derse with Jacobs Technology—Tidewater Group, Gwen Johnson with Parson Government, Bruce Emerson with the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), Harold Stinger and Hekima Qualls with Stinger Ghaffarian Technologies, Inc. (SGT), and Douglas Woodson with The Boeing Company.

Our last FY16 HBCU/MSI Road Tour stop will be Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, FL, September 27–29, 2016. If you are interested in attending or presenting, please contact the Office of Small Business Programs at 202-358-2088, or contact your Center Small Business Specialist. We hope to see you there!
From Inner Earth to Outer Space: Johnson Space Center Partners With Houston-Based Small Business To Produce Space Station Flight Hardware

By Jay Bolden and Richard Slater

In the fall of 2015, the engineering staff from a Houston small business called National K Works (NKW) visited Johnson Space Center (JSC) looking for collaboration opportunities. During their visit, the staff met with the JSC Industry Assistance Office (IAO), Center Technical Advisor, and the Small Business Technical Coordinator from the Engineering Directorate to discuss the capabilities of their company. NKW is known in the oil, gas, and energy sector for manufacturing rugged, durable, high-temperature/high-pressure-rated downhole tools and sensor housings. After some discussion, it was determined that NKW had the equipment and skilled technicians to develop precision-drilled hardware. It took a creative mindset to realize that the same tooling and techniques NKW used to create oil pipeline equipment could also create high-quality spaceflight hardware.

With the Small Business imperative to look for opportunities to collaborate outside of the aerospace industry, embrace best practices for streamlined development, and highlight cost-savings techniques, the Small Business team at JSC embarked on a partnership to formalize the relationship between JSC and NKW.

JSC staff checked through the project database and determined that fabrication of the hardware for an upcoming Space Station science experiment would be an ideal project for the new partnership. One of the experiments selected for this initiative was the Water Monitoring Suite, a collection of three instruments that measure different water quality properties. One part of the Water Monitoring Suite, called the Organic Water Module, needed specially built equipment. The Organic Water Module is a gas chromatograph, which can detect volatilized organics in water samples. The technology existed in a benchtop unit but needed to be designed for space launch and operation aboard the Space Station. This updated design required manufacturing of an intricately drilled stainless steel manifold block that featured 20 holes, many intersecting, and all almost impossibly small. This manifold replaced a slew of intersecting lines and enabled the size of the unit to be reduced to 25 percent of its original volume. After a site survey by NASA engineers Rachel Edgerly, Stuart Pensinger, and Shawn Schumacher, NKW was tasked with drilling a test block as a capabilities qualification. The test article was delivered on time, on budget, and within NASA’s exacting specifications in January 2016. NKW was then tasked to manufacture and deliver two manifold blocks. These manifold blocks were delivered in early February. NKW completed a task that other vendors could not complete.

“Finding a company, especially a small business that has never produced space flight hardware that takes a highly specialized component and manufactures it to meet the technical requirements is a testament to some of the capabilities of small businesses,” said Chuck Williams, Lead Small Business Specialist and JSC Technical Advisor. This is a true success story, because in under 6 months, NKW went from a private business to a certified Government contractor, then finalized a complex project to produce space flight hardware.

The Water Monitoring Suite is scheduled to launch to the International Space Station on an upcoming commercial cargo vehicle in late 2016.

For more information on NASA business initiatives, visit http://www.nasa.gov/centers/johnson/partnerships/index.html#.VP3i3WPdKsQ

For more information on the Water Monitoring Suite, visit http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/research/experiments/2109.html
News from OSBP
Chelsea R. Gaetani
Program Analyst (Contractor)
NASA Office of Small Business Programs

I have been in the Northern Virginia area my entire life. I attended George Mason University, where I received my B.A. in public relations and communication. After testing out a couple of different industries, I scored a job contracting for NASA as a program analyst supporting the Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP). OSBP changed me for the better. I was given the opportunity to grow not only professionally, but also personally during my time here. I learned a lot about myself and even more about the best Agency to work for in the U.S. Government. I enjoyed marketing and promoting small businesses through outreach events, social media, the NASA vendor database and the upcoming OSBP mobile app, SB-JENI. I truly believe that the first-ever OSBP mobile app will be an extremely beneficial outreach tool for the Small Business Program. I want to thank Chris Brunner and the NASA HITSS team for helping to move the process along in order for the app to be accessible to the public as soon as possible!

My most memorable moments while working with OSBP were being able to travel to the different NASA centers and establishing relationships with the Small Business Specialists and the NASA Industry Forum. I enjoyed putting so many names to faces and getting to know everyone.

I will be leaving my digital footprint behind on OSBP’s social media, but I will be taking with me a great experience and better understanding of what I want to work toward in my professional career. I want to thank Melanie Osei-Acheampong for always showing me her Microsoft Excel “tricks” and for going on numerous DC Pollo pilgrimages with me. I also want to thank everyone that was always thoughtful and kind to me while working with me at such a young phase in my career. I appreciate the feedback, the knowledge, and most importantly, the opportunity. Godspeed to you all!

OSBP Newsletter Article Submission Schedule

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Metrics Update
Melanie A. Osei-Acheampong, Program Analyst (Contractor)
NASA Office of Small Business Programs

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Data generated June 6, 2016, from FPDS-NG
**Important Dates To Remember**

**June 14–15, 2016**
2016 National 8(a) Summer Conference
Anchorage, AK
http://www.national8aassociation.org

**June 16, 2016**
HUD VAG WAVE/HUD OSDBU Entrepreneurs Small Business Training Conference
Washington, DC

**June 20–23, 2016**
Veteran Entrepreneur Training Symposium
Norfolk, VA
http://www.veterantrainingsymposium.com

**June 28, 2016**
Jeffco EDC Presents: Aerospace and Defense Small Business Industry Day
Lakewood, CO

**July 12, 2016**
VET-Force Meeting
Washington, DC
http://www.vet-force.org

**July 14, 2016**
National Small Business Contracting Summit
Washington, DC
http://uswcc.org/events/national-small-business-contracting-summit-the-power-of-partnership

**August 3–4, 2016**
HBCU/MI Outreach Event
Pasadena, CA
http://www.osbp.nasa.gov

**August 9, 2016**
GSFC HUBZone Industry Day
Greenbelt, MD
http://osbp.nasa.gov/industry-day-events.html

**August 24–26, 2016**
13th Annual Elite SDVOB Network National Conference
San Antonio, TX

**September 16, 2016**
Stairway to the Stars
Waltham, MA
http://osbp.nasa.gov/regional-outreach-events.html

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**OSBP in the Community**

**Claudette E. Washington**

Administrative Assistant (Contractor)

**NASA Office of Small Business Programs**

OSBP recognizes the hard work of its team in and away from the office. Join OSBP in saluting Claudette Washington for making the Dean’s List two semesters in a row, all while working full time at NASA. Claudette was also selected by her college, Strayer University, to be featured in its television marketing campaign. Kudos to Claudette! Keep reading below to learn more about our dynamic team member.

![Claudette E. Washington](image)

I was hired as the administrative assistant/secretary (contractor) for OSBP in July 2013. My current role at OSBP is to provide administrative support for the entire OSBP team. My main priority is to ensure that Associate Administrator Glenn Delgado’s needs and requirements are met efficiently and successfully. To fulfill these responsibilities, it is vital that I begin my workday with a clear outlook and a focus on productivity and meeting office expectations.

I was born and raised in Washington, DC, the seventh of nine children. At the age of 18, I moved out of my mother’s house and into a one-bedroom apartment in Hillcrest Heights with my newborn baby. Currently, I live in District Heights, MD, where I have resided since 1996. I have two lovely daughters, who both work for the Department of Justice, and four grandchildren (two boys and two girls).

During my childhood, I was the ideal student. I went to school early to help the teachers with anything they needed; I did this all through elementary, middle, and high school. I would stay after school sometimes to help with organizing the students’ class work. One of my teachers told me on many occasions that my organizational skills were good. She was right, because I am now a perfectionist in my work habits.

After receiving my associate’s degree in business administration from Colorado Technical University, I decided to return to school to acquire a bachelor’s degree. I am currently attending Strayer University to earn my B.A. in business administration, with a concentration in human resources. My goal is to learn more about the human resources field and to secure a position in this field after I graduate.

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**OSBP Staff**

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

- **Glenn A. Delgado**
  Associate Administrator
- **David B. Grove**
  Program Manager
- **Richard L. Mann**
  Program Manager
- **Tabisa T. Kalisa**
  Program Manager
- **Truphelia M. Parker**
  Program Specialist, Editor
- **Chelsea R. Gaetani**
  Program Analyst (Contractor)
- **Zohra Gul Mir**
  Program Analyst (Contractor)
- **Deneen D. Newton**
  Program Analyst, Editorial Assistant (Contractor)
- **Melanie A. Osei-Acheampong**
  Program Analyst (Contractor)
- **Claudette E. Washington**
  Administrative Assistant (Contractor)