

WM2015 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 054: **Addressing the Small Business Barriers in Contracting with the US DOE**

Session Co-Chairs: **Jim Fiore**, *Fiore Consulting*
John Coffman, *ReNuke Services, Inc.*

Panel Reporter: **Vanessa Vanover Hatfield**, *E2 Consulting Engineers, Inc.*

Panelists:

- **Jack Surash**, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management, US DOE EM*
- **John Evett**, *Small Business Program Manager, US DOE EM*
- **John Hale III**, *Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, US DOE*
- **Greg Gonzales**, *Small Business Program Manager, NNSA, Albuquerque Complex*

There were approximately 55 attendees present for the presentations, which focused on barriers for small businesses in contracting with the US DOE and was delivered from the perspective of both DOE/NNSA. Small businesses were encouraged to respond to Sources Sought and Requests for Information by “answering the mail” and not simply submitting generic qualification packages. Small businesses should know the project and its requirements and address the requirements in their entirety. When considering a response, small businesses should recognize when your company does not have the capabilities to meet all the requirements and develop teaming strategies to be successful in your submissions.

Summary of Presentations:

Jack Surash and **John Evett** presented jointly with Mr. Surash covering the first part of their presentation. He stated that DOE EM is committed to creating sustainable contract opportunities for small business by increasing the amount of meaningful work for small business prime contracting. EM is working with DOE’s OSDBU to develop small business contracting strategies. Mr. Surash highlighted current EM small business contracts and provided the following on upcoming awards.

<u>Procurement</u>	<u>Anticipated Award Date</u>
• Hanford 222-S Lab Services	April-June 2015
• Oak Ridge Transuranic Waste Processing	June-Aug. 2015
• Paducah Infrastructure	June-Aug. 2015
• Portsmouth Infrastructure	Aug.-Oct. 2015

John Evett covered the EM field offices small business funding and goals with \$400-\$600M projected for 2015. He also provided contract value updates on all current major small business procurements previously awarded. Mr. Evett closed by providing several helpful websites for small businesses.

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John Hall opened by stating that DOE's mission was:

1. Energy Security
2. Nuclear Security
3. Environmental Responsibility
4. Enhance efforts in Scientific Discovery and Innovation

The mission of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization is "building sustainable small businesses to enable the Department to achieve its mission through innovation and creativity" and that the defining characteristics of small businesses are:

- Creativity
- Innovation
- Agility
- Niche capabilities

He encouraged small businesses to participate in the DOE annual conference and summits to network and hear the latest comments from DOE and DOE prime contractors, offering the following information:

- DOE Small Business Forum & Expo, Phoenix, AZ June 16th – 18th

Mr. Hale III also discussed Section 318 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 directing the Department to include first tier subcontracts awarded by M&O contractors in its small business achievements and said that they are coordinating detailed implementation with the SBA.

Greg Gonzales went over the FY 2015 NNSA Budget Request of \$11.7 billion and provided the following breakdown.

- Legacy Contractor Pensions 3.5%
- Integrated & Effective Enterprise 3.7%
- Reduce Nuclear Dangers 14.6%
- Nuclear Weapons Stockpile 24.6%
- Science, Technology & Engineering Base 14.7%
- Security 6.6%
- Modernize Infrastructure 20.3%
- Advance Naval Nuclear Propulsion 11.8%

Mr. Gonzales detailed an upcoming procurement opportunity for NEPA Environmental Services across the NNSA and DOE enterprise. The NEPA opportunity is estimated to come out in FY2015 as a 5 year contract under GSA Schedule 899 with an approximate value of \$125M. NNSA will continue to utilize their interagency agreement with the USACE as well as strategic sourcing, GSA schedules and Enterprise-wide BPAs for procurements. FY2014 had \$1.7B in small business funding and FY2015 is anticipated to increase obligations