

ETEBA Quarterly Newsletter

Fall & Winter 2023

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Photo: World's Fair Park in the Fall

Letter From The Executive Director

November is here and that means the most joyous time of the year is near. I look forward to spending some quality time with family and friends as we pause to give thanks for such a special year. Thanksgiving, each year, marks the beginning of the most wonderful (and busiest) season for our family. As you all continue to fill your calendars for 2024, we hope you will consider adding ETEBA's special events to your slate:

- ▶ New Mexico Federal Business Opportunities Forum – April 24th – Santa Fe, NM
- ▶ Savannah River Federal Business Opportunities Forum – July 11th - North Augusta, SC
- ▶ BOTC 2024 – October 1st – 3rd – Knoxville, TN

We are proud to share our rates to register and sponsor these events will remain the same in 2024. If you are currently budgeting for 2024 and would like these figures, please reach out and we will be happy to send them to you. We feel confident you will see the return on investment from participating in ETEBA events is significant!

We have so much to look forward to in 2024. From the Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, to adding new events, and increasing ETEBA's presence across the industry, we know you will find being an active member of ETEBA lines up with your business goals and objectives. If your company is not a member of ETEBA, we encourage you to take this opportunity to join us. I would like to personally ask you to give me a call so I can share why joining our organization is a great business decision. My number is (803) 522-2277. My email is elizabeth@eteba.org.

As we close out the year, I would like to extend a special thank you to Mark Ellison. Mark's calm under pressure demeanor and spirited encouragement have truly been a gift to ETEBA and its membership. He was right there when the staff needed him and stepped out of the way when he was confident in our approach. I simply cannot thank him enough for all he has done for ETEBA in 2023. (Rest assured he will remain an active participant in our organization as he transitions to the Past President role.)

On behalf of the board and the staff, I wish you all the best throughout the upcoming holiday season. If I can be of any service to you or your company, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Harm
Executive Director
ETEBA

ETEBA Welcomes New Members in Q3 & Q4 2023

ETEBA has welcomed 16 new companies into our membership since our last newsletter. Click a logo to visit their website and be sure to give the people who represent these companies a warm welcome when you see them at a future ETEBA event.



A James Global Services



Baker Concrete



Bank of America



DeMase Technical Services



Gilmartin Engineering Works



Hoffman & Hoffman



Knowledge Relay



Lucas Engineering



Manhattan Legacy Service



Michael Baker International



Miller-Remick



MuniRem Environmental



Omega Technical Services



Stanek Tool



Sterling Labs



Thundercat Technology

Photos from the 2023 Business Opportunities & Technical Conference



PHOTOS BY JEFF FYKE - FYKEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



FAR Council Debuts Significant New Cybersecurity Requirements for Federal Contractors

By **Alexander Gorelik**, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

On Oct. 3, 2023, the FAR Council released two, separate, and quite extensive proposed rules addressing new cybersecurity requirements – at least one of them applicable to most, if not all, federal contractors. Since each of the rules leaves some significant questions unanswered, should contractors wish to submit comments (seeking answers), they are due on Dec. 4, 2023. Below is a summary of the most significant terms set out in these rules:

Cyber Threat and Incident Reporting and Sharing

Expanded Definition of “Information and Communication Technology”: The FAR 2.101 definition of “Information and Communication Technology” (ICT) will change to include “[t]elecommunications services, electronic media, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and operational technology.” The revision presumably will extend the requirements of FAR Subpart 39.2 and other FAR sections addressing ICT, such as those ensuring access for disabled individuals, to those technologies.

Shift to Internet Protocol Version 6: The rule continues the government’s transition to Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6), which is the latest version of the requirements for transmitting on the internet. The rule adds that all “ICT products and services must conform, at a minimum, to the IPv6 mandatory capabilities ... or, if the agency Chief Information Officer (CIO) grants a waiver, provide for a product/service-specific IPv6 implementation plan.”

New Requirements To Minimize and Address Cyber Breaches: Premieres a new clause numbered FAR 52.239-ZZ, Incident and Threat Reporting and Incident Response Requirements for Products or Services Containing Information and Communications Technology, which will be applicable to all solicitations and contracts, including those below the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) and for commercial products or services, such as commercially available off-the-shelf (COTS) items.

Submission of Software Bills of Materials: The proposed clause directs contractors to submit a software bill of materials for any software used in the performance of a contract, regardless of whether there is a security incident. The submissions must occur upon the initial use of the software in the performance of the contract and have to be updated — or allow the Contracting Officer access to any updates — upon any new build or major release for that software. With the exception of timing requirements, the submissions have to comply with all of the minimum elements identified in Section IV of The Minimum Elements for a Software Bill of Materials — the current version at the time of solicitation — published by the Department of Commerce here.

Prompt Notices of Any Incident: The clause calls for contractors to report any security incident(s) in Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA’s) incident reporting portal within eight hours of discovery and make updated submissions every 72 hours thereafter until the contractor, the agency, and/or any investigating agencies have completed all eradication or remediation activities. This requirement would thus call on contractors to report any breaches much faster than the government currently requests for most other entities.

Broad Access for the Government to Systems and Personnel: Contractors must also provide CISA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Justice, and the contracting agency full access to applicable contractor information and information systems, and to contractor personnel, in response to a security incident reported by the contractor or a security incident identified by the government. The requirement leads to a lot of uncertainty as to how entities can protect themselves from waiver of Fourth Amendment protections for searches and seizures or their attorney-client privilege and work product protections which may otherwise be applicable in certain cases.

Subcontract Flow-Down Obligations: The clause carries a requirement to flow down all obligations to any lower-tier subcontractors but notes that beyond informing the government of any incident within the required timelines, subcontractors must also notify the prime contractor and any next higher-tier subcontractor within eight hours of discovering a security incident.

Foreign-Owned Vendors and Those Operating Abroad: There are no current exclusions for either foreign-owned vendors or those entities performing work outside of the United States. While the proposed rule recognizes that these requirements may conflict with other international requirements, it does not yet address the appropriate approach for resolving such conflicts. The FAR Council seeks input on this point.

Pre-Award Certifications: The new clause will be paired with provision 52.239-AA, Security Incident Reporting Representation, which will extend to all solicitations and require offerors to certify that they have submitted all of their cyber reports timely and appropriately.

Calls for Input: In recognition of the major impact of these requirements, the proposed rule also contains several questions for the industry to provide input about the effects of the requirement for bills of materials for software, potential approaches for harmonizing the various breach notification requirements that different agencies have set out, and methods of protecting contractors while providing the government access to their systems and personnel.

FAR Council Debuts Significant New Cybersecurity Requirements for Federal Contractors (cont'd)

Standardizing Cybersecurity Requirements for Unclassified Federal Information Systems.

Definition and Protection of Federal Information Systems: The rule focuses on protecting unclassified Federal Information Systems (FIS), which are information systems “used or operated by an agency, by a contractor of an agency, or by another organization, on behalf of an agency.” As the rule explains, its intent is to replace the current system of setting “requirements for the cybersecurity standards of unclassified FISs based [largely] on agency-specific policies and regulations.”

New FAR Terms: To that end, the rule proposes to add a new FAR subpart 39.X, “Federal Information Systems,” to prescribe policies and procedures for agencies when acquiring services to develop, implement, operate, or maintain a FIS. The rule also proposes two separate new FAR clauses for use in contracts for services to develop, implement, operate, or maintain a FIS, which the rule assumes will only affect a total of 84 contractors annually:

FAR Clause:	52.239-YY, “Federal Information Systems Using Non-Cloud Computing Services”	52.239-XX, “Federal Information Systems Using Cloud Computing Services”
Applicability:	Solicitations and contracts that use non-cloud computing services in the performance of the contract regardless of the dollar value or commerciality of the product or service. However, the requirements of the clause only extend to aspects of a FIS that do not involve cloud computing services.	Solicitations and contracts that use cloud computing services in the performance of the contract regardless of the dollar value or commerciality of the product or service. However, the requirements of the clause only extend to aspects of a FIS that involve cloud computing services.
Restrictions on Usage and Disclosure of Data:	Limits a contractor’s and its employees’ access to, use, and disclosure of government data, government-related data, and metadata under the contract. Requires contractors to notify the Contracting Officer promptly of any requests from a third-party for access to government data, government-related data, or any associated metadata , including any warrants, seizures, or subpoenas it receives, including those from another federal, state, or local agency. Prohibits contractors from publishing or disclosing in any manner, without the Contracting Officer’s written consent, the details of any safeguards either designed or developed by the Contractor under this contract or otherwise provided by the government.	Limits a contractor’s and its employees’ access to, use, and disclosure of government data and government-related data under the contract. Requires contractors to notify the Contracting Officer promptly of any requests from a third-party for access to government data or government-related data, including any warrants, seizures, or subpoenas it receives, including those from another federal, state, or local agency.

Security Assessments:	When a FIS is designated as a moderate or high impact level, the clause requires contractors: (1) to conduct, at least annually, a cyber threat hunting and vulnerability assessment to search for vulnerabilities, risks, and indicators of compromise; and (2) to perform to an annual, independent assessment of the security of each FIS. Upon completion, contractors must submit the results of an assessment, including any recommended improvements or risk mitigations, to the contracting officer, who may require the contractor to implement specific improvements or mitigations or provide the contractor with documentation of rationale for not doing so. Contractors may rely on third-party assessment organizations to perform these assessments, assuming that there are no conflicts of interest, but they will have to enter into certain confidentiality agreements with such organizations to protect federal data under the contract if they do.	N/A
Security Controls:	Contractors will be required to implement and maintain some substantial security and privacy controls necessary for contract performance as specified by the agency. If the FIS is designated as a high value asset, those may include even more burdensome controls. Contractors will also have to: (1) develop, review, and update, if appropriate, a system security plan to support authorization of all applicable FIS, (2) have contingency plans for all information technology systems; and (3) provide the government with a copy of their continuous monitoring strategy for the FIS that demonstrates an ongoing awareness of information security, vulnerabilities, and threats in order to support risk management decisions, applies the use of automation, wherever possible; and protects vulnerability scan data, logs, and telemetry.	Contractors will be required to implement and maintain the security and privacy safeguards and controls in accordance with the FedRAMP level specified by the agency, engage in continuous monitoring activities, and provide continuous monitoring deliverables as required for FedRAMP approved capabilities. If the FIS is designated as a high value asset, contractors will also have to maintain all government data that is not physically located on United States government premises, within the United States, or its outlying areas — unless exempted.

FAR Council Debuts Significant New Cybersecurity Requirements for Federal Contractors (cont'd)

Indemnification Requirements	The clause requires contractors to broadly indemnify the government from any liability that arises out of the performance of the contract because of the contractor's introduction of certain information or matter into government data or the contractor's unauthorized disclosure of certain information or material.	The clause requires contractors to broadly indemnify the government from any liability that arises out of the performance of the contract because of the contractor's introduction of certain information or matter into government data or the contractor's unauthorized disclosure of certain information or material.
Broad Access for the Government to Systems, Personnel, and Facilities:	Requires contractors to provide the government's authorized representatives (including CISA, and other federal agencies as specified by the Contracting Officer) with access to government and government-related data, contractor personnel, and contractor facilities for any programs of inspection to safeguard against threats and hazards to the security (i.e., confidentiality, integrity, and availability) and privacy of government data; or for the purpose of audits, investigations, inspections, or other similar activities, as authorized by law, regulation, or the contract.	Requires contractors to provide the government's authorized representatives (including CISA, and other federal agencies as specified by the Contracting Officer) with access to government and government-related data, contractor personnel, and contractor facilities for any programs of inspection to safeguard against threats and hazards to the security (i.e., confidentiality, integrity, and availability) and privacy of government data; or for the purpose of audits, investigations, inspections, or other similar activities, as authorized by law, regulation, or the contract.
Subcontract Flow-Down Obligations:	The substance of the clause must be included in all subcontracts issued under the contract that are for services to develop, implement, operate, or maintain a FIS using non-cloud computing services.	The substance of the clause must be included in all subcontracts issued under the contract that are for services to develop, implement, operate, or maintain a FIS using cloud computing services.

Takeaways:

Both of these proposed rules, if and once finalized, are likely to require federal contractors to pay more attention to the systems they use in performing government contracts – to better mitigate the risk of cybersecurity incidents and to improve their ability to identify and report those incidents if they do occur. Given the costly ramifications for any non-compliance and the time and cost that it takes to get any system in line with major technical upgrades, any contractors who cannot meet these requirements today should make it a priority to implement any necessary upgrades to their systems as soon as possible. Contractors also should not delay in discussing these requirements with their subcontractors, who are likely to require even more time to get up to speed. These proposed rules are not likely to become final and require compliance immediately – probably not until the next calendar year. However, given the government's recent focus on cybersecurity, contractors who do not take these proposed changes seriously do so at their own peril.

¹ This estimate accounts for 28 contractors affected by the non-cloud FIS clause and 56 contractors affected by the cloud FIS clause.

Alexander (Alex) Gorelik is an Associate Attorney in the Washington, D.C. area office of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, where he helps companies handle the broad range of issues that can arise when supporting federal, state, or local governments. In his day-to-day, Alex advises contractors on the best approaches for addressing compliance concerns, and represents clients in bid protests, claims, and other challenges against the government or other entities. In his prior life, he spent more than seven years working in federal contracting at the U.S. Department of the Navy, including as a Senior Contracting Officer for the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and a Contract Specialist for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Program Office.

Established in 1885, Taft is a nationally recognized law firm with over 850 attorneys and offices in eight primary Midwest markets and the District of Columbia. Taft's attorneys practice across a wide range of industries, covering virtually every area of law, including Bankruptcy, Business, Energy, Environmental, Finance, Government Contracts, Health and Life Sciences, Intellectual Property, Labor and Employment, Litigation, Public Affairs Strategies Group, Private Client, Real Estate and Tax law. Learn more at www.taftlaw.com.

Member Highlights

CALL FOR HIGHLIGHTS

Submit your member highlights for the next issue of the ETEBA Newsletter! Submissions should include a title, high resolution company logo, and supporting graphics when appropriate. Emphasize relevancy for our industry/markets, and be limited to 500 words.

Member highlights may include:

- ▶ News of Big Wins
- ▶ Significant Project Success Stories
- ▶ Notable Accomplishments of Individual Staff
- ▶ Significant Contributions to the Industry
- ▶ Upcoming Events
- ▶ Awards, Recognitions and/or Inventions
- ▶ Acquisitions/Merger News
- ▶ Key Publications/Presentations
- ▶ Academic & Research Contributions

All submittals will be reviewed and if we need to get back to you with questions or requests for more information, we will. Please keep in mind this is a great opportunity for sharing your company’s capabilities and experience; however, we seek, and all want to read, objectively-written materials which avoid sales/self-promotional language.

Please send your input to **hannah@eteba.org** no later than **April 15th** to allow time for review and a back-and-forth exchange if necessary. Please also include a high resolution company logo, your company’s web address, and primary contact information.

Thank you for your support and contribution to the ETEBA Quarterly Newsletter!



Apollo Mechanical Contractors has been named the #5 Mechanical Contractor in the US by Engineering News-Record Magazine in their yearly “Top 600 Specialty Contractors” Top List. Each year, ENR ranks specialty contractors according to revenue in the previous year. For the 2023 list, Apollo moved from #8 to #5 in the Mechanical Contractors category, and jumped from #43 to #31 in the overall Top 600 Specialty Contractors list. This recognition showcases their commitment to excellence in delivering premier mechanical services throughout the US. Apollo is dedicated to continually providing industry-leading services and innovative solutions.



The full Top 600 Specialty Contractors list can be found [here](#), and more info on Apollo Mechanical Contractors can be found at <https://apollomech.com>.

Member Highlights



US SBA approves mentor-protégé between Armitage Architecture, PC and Wilson & Company, Inc., Engineers & Architects

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Oct. 2, 2023 – The US Small Business Association (SBA) has approved the Mentor-Protégé application under the SBA Mentor-Protégé Program (SBAMPP) between Armitage Architecture, PC (Protégé) and Wilson & Company Inc., Engineers & Architects (Mentor).

“It’s a privilege for Armitage Architecture to partner with Wilson & Company, which holds such a renowned reputation as a high-caliber company,” said Penny Armitage, AIA, MBA, CEO and Principal at Armitage Architecture. “This partnership strengthens and highlights the expertise of both organizations. With our complementary capabilities, we will be able to work together to create opportunities to grow our respective companies and expand services to our customers.”

The purpose of the SBAMPP is to enhance the development of the protégé by encouraging approved mentors to assist in management and technical, financial, contracting, business development, and administration. Together, the companies can form one or more Joint Ventures to pursue and deliver their combined services as a prime contractor under small-business set-aside contracts to the federal government.

“Wilson & Company is very excited about receiving the SBA approval of our Mentor-Protégé application between Armitage Architecture and Wilson & Company under the SBA’s Mentor-Protégé Program,” said Paul Fensterer, Vice President of Federal Programs at Wilson & Company. “The opportunity to work more closely together as Mentor and Protégé was a natural progression of already strong synergies supported by our well-aligned business cultures existing within both firms. Wilson & Company’s commitments under the approved Mentor-Protégé agreement reinforce our focus on fostering ‘Higher Relationships’ for our people, partners, and clients.”

Armitage and Wilson & Company extend comprehensive architecture and engineering, design-build, and construction services for federal government projects nationwide. With more than 700 professionals providing delivery of standard and emergency project requirements, the team has a distinguished track record as federal contractors with portfolios that include assignments from the US Department of Energy and various US Department of Defense agencies.

About Wilson & Company Inc., Engineers & Architects

Wilson & Company Inc., Engineers & Architects, has brought more than 700 people together in 15 offices over nine states to build Higher Relationships through discipline, intensity, collaboration, shared ownership, and solutions with our clients, partners, and communities. After nine decades of business, professionals continue to hone their craft with us, including civil, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering; architecture; planning; biology; surveying; mapping; GIS specializations; drone piloting; financial analyses; program management; construction administration and inspection; and a growing number of multi-disciplinary specialties. We seek to create value for a diverse client base, including federal and municipal governments, public transportation agencies, railroad companies, industrial and commercial corporations, and private developers.



This month, Advanced Technologies & Laboratories (ATL) International, Inc. welcomed Melanie Lirley to our team as a Talent Acquisition Specialist!

Melanie is a highly experienced Recruiter with a proven track record of over 15 years in full life cycle recruiting. With a focus on the initiation and closure of the recruitment process.

Throughout her career, she has provided creative solutions to hiring dilemmas, constantly seeking to improve the recruitment process. Her ability to establish recruiting partnerships with hiring managers has allowed her to effectively meet hiring goals and ensure the right fit for both the candidates and the organization.

We are happy to welcome Melanie to the team!

To learn more about Advanced Technologies & Laboratories International, Inc. visit <https://www.atlintl.com>.

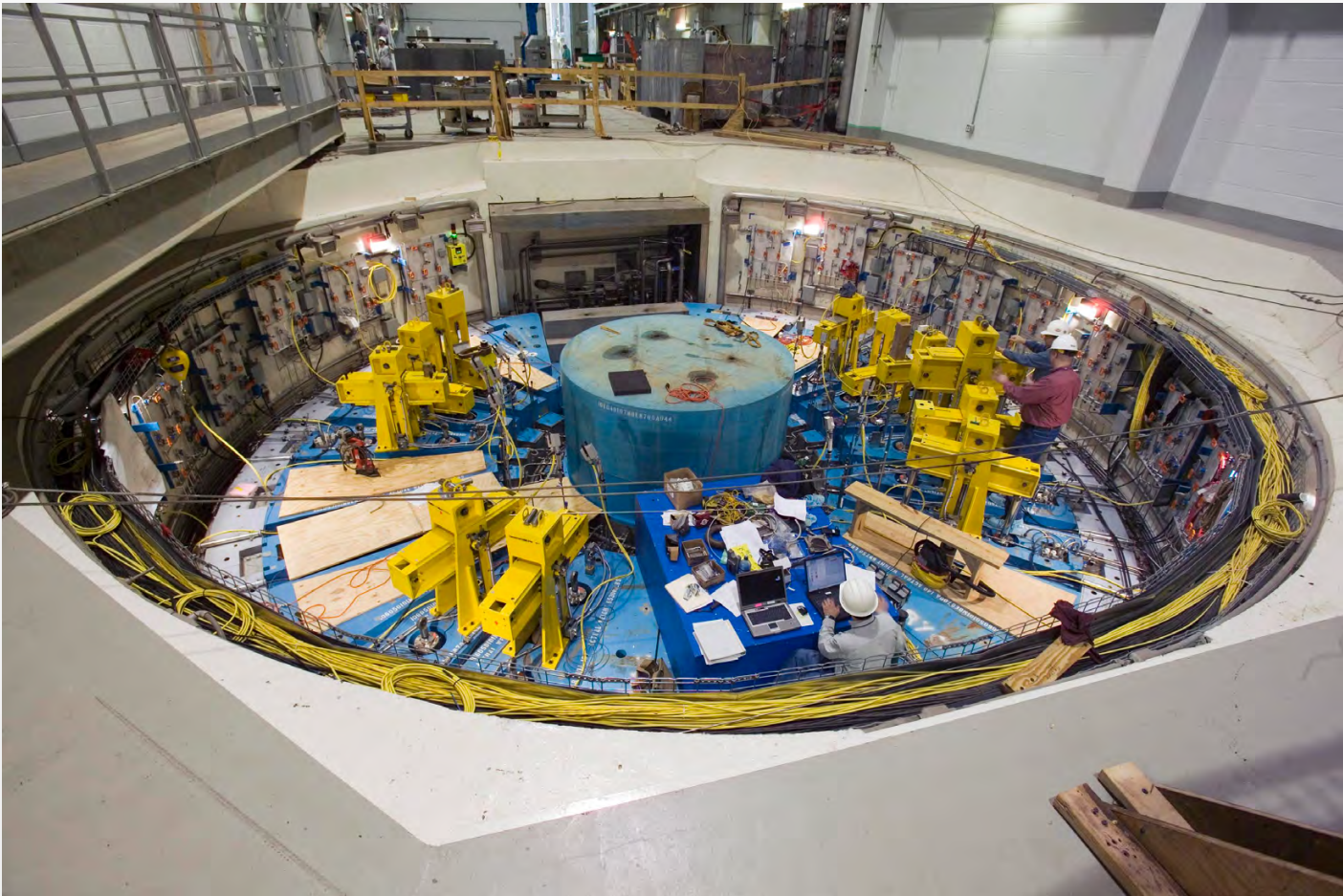
Member Highlights



Baker Concrete Construction Combines Expertise and Technology to Deliver Greater Value

Emerging technologies and evolving demand have created dynamic conditions in the energy and nuclear sector. One requirement that never changes, however, is the ability to deliver NQA-1-regulated projects at a higher level of accountability.

For more than 20 years, Baker Concrete Construction’s means and methods have reduced costs and provided greater schedule certainty on NRC-regulated and USDOE nuclear and high-hazard facility construction. Baker combines specialized knowledge with leading-edge technology to satisfy the heightened security, economic, safety, quality, and traceability requirements of 10 CFR 830, 10CFR50, 10CFR70, and NQA-1 projects.



A Foundation for Delivering Schedule and Budget Certainty

Founded in 1968, Baker is the nation’s leading concrete construction contractor, with a portfolio that extends across all sectors, including nuclear. A total package concrete contractor, Baker manages all types of concrete construction from five regional offices across the U.S. With more than 5,500 skilled co-workers across the U.S., Baker has both the bench strength and the capabilities to mobilize teams with the right experience and credentials for whatever the job demands. The company is backed by the network, technology, resources, and financial muscle of Baker Construction Enterprises, the largest concrete contractor in the nation.

In the industrial sector, Baker’s award-winning projects include the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant in Nashville, Tennessee. Baker performed the full scope of concrete work for the project, which expanded Nashville’s largest wastewater treatment plant from 300 million gallons per day (MGD) to 440 MGD. Baker’s ability to safely tackle project challenges and deliver high-quality results earned a 2022 Excellence in Construction Eagle Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Tennessee.

Efficient and Effective Delivery on Nuclear Projects

Baker’s energy and nuclear portfolio includes NQA-1 projects in Georgia, Idaho, New Mexico, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. Past project experience includes traditional nuclear power, nuclear waste facilities, nuclear medical isotope production, and infrastructure renovations and upgrades. The company is closely following the small modular reactor market. Baker’s expertise extends to mature and tested safety and NQA-1 quality programs that assure the safe and proper construction of concrete structures.

Throughout preconstruction and construction, Baker relies on proven tools and processes to identify hurdles and improve collaboration within the project team and with project partners. For example, building information modeling and virtual design and construction technologies are used to improve constructability, streamline the layout process, and plan sequencing and phasing. The company’s adoption of digital technologies is complemented by robust “defense in depth” security measures. Every potential source of intrusion is closely monitored to safeguard data and systems.

As more federal and commercial clients look to reduce their carbon footprint, Baker is committed to becoming the industry leader in sustainable construction practices and operations. The company’s commitment to sustainability earned recognition from the White House in 2022.

To learn more about Baker Concrete, visit bakerconcrete.com and follow the company on LinkedIn (/baker-concrete-construction/), Facebook (/BakerConcreteConstr/), Instagram (/bakerconcreteconstruction/), and Twitter (/BakerConcrete).

Member Highlights



Energy Technology Alliance LLC (ETA), a Lindahl Reed and Boston Government Services Joint Venture, Awarded a 5-Year \$300 Million Blanket Purchase Agreement by DOE EERE to Provide Scientific, Engineering, and Technical Support

Lindahl Reed, Inc. (Lindahl Reed) and Boston Government Services, LLC (BGS) are pleased to announce that ETA has been awarded the 5-year, \$300 million Scientific, Engineering, and Technical Support (SETS) Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). Under the SETS BPA, ETA will provide the scientists, engineers, and technical resources to support EERE's \$3.5 billion clean energy Research, Development, Demonstration, and Deployment program (RDD&D), which is critical to advancing clean energy technologies and transitioning the United States to a clean energy economy to enhance economic growth, energy independence, and the health and well-being of the American people.



Joining Lindahl Reed and BGS on the ETA team are clean energy leaders Energetics, ManTech International Corporation, BCS LLC, Booz Allen Hamilton, Guidehouse, and The Cadmus Group. The ETA team supports EERE's Buildings and Industry, Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Transportation and Fuels Sectors and all sector technology offices. Our work focuses on enhancing efficiency and decarbonization, improving the competitiveness of clean energy, and increasing access to clean transportation and fuels. We also work with federal partners, state, local, and tribal governments, industry, academia, and utilities to support execution of the EERE mission. This includes leveraging the unprecedented investments in renewable energy through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

"On behalf of the entire ETA team, we are thrilled to be selected to support EERE's clean energy mission as the Nation races to achieve carbon neutrality," said Nicole Hough, ETA Joint Venture Manager and Lindahl Reed President and Chief Executive Officer. "ETA was formed to meet our Nation's most critical and complex challenges, such as accelerating clean energy transition, restoring the environment and biodiversity, and reducing the impacts of climate change."

"We are extremely proud to support the SETS BPA and to continue to build on the exceptional technical services that we have provided to EERE during the past 4 years," said Harry Boston, BGS President. "We are committed to DOE's mission and being EERE's partner to help expand access to clean and affordable energy, develop the workforce of the future, and ensure that no communities are left behind."

Additional information regarding Energy Technology Alliance LLC is available at the following link:
<https://energytechalliance.com/>



The EFCOG Cybersecurity Working Group 2023 Workshop

Bridgitte Mase and Jeanne Beard hosted the 2023 EFCOG CSWG Workshop on October 25th and October 26th using a virtual meeting format. Bridgitte is the Chief Executive Officer of DeMase Technical Services and the Chair of the Energy Facilities Contractors Group (EFCOG) Cybersecurity Working Group (CSWG). Jeanne is the Director, Office of Information Services and the Chief Information Officer for the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management. The EFCOG CSWG is a collaborative team of cybersecurity professionals who support key strategic DOE initiatives and missions across the complex.

Key speakers who joined Ms. Mase and Ms. Beard in this important workshop included **Ann Dunkin**, the Department of Energy's Chief Information Officer, **Clare Martorana**, Federal Chief Information Officer for the Office of Management and Budget, **Tom Summers**, Vice Chair of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB), **Gregory Pearson**, Senior Trial Attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, **Chris McFearn**, Director for DOE's Office of Enterprise Assessments, **Amy Hamilton, PhD.**, Visiting Faculty Chair for DOE's National Defense University, College of Information and Cyberspace, **Mark Baggett**, Senior Cybersecurity Engineer for the SANS Institute, **Mike Holcomb**, Fluor's Director of Cyber Security and Control Systems Cyber Security Global Lead, **Gary Stoneburner**, Senior Professional Staff at John Hopkins, Applied Physics Laboratory, **Chuck Weissenborn**, Regional Manager for Defense and Intelligence for Dragos, **Brad Rhodes**, Security Operations Domain Lead for Accenture Federal Services, **Barry Jones** of WAPA, **Dr. Prakash Ranganathan** of the C2SR at the University of North Dakota, and multiple special guest speakers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The EFCOG CSWG supports secure operations at DOE sites and DOE Headquarters, aligns efforts with DOE cybersecurity strategic plan objectives, and facilitates secure and effective on-site, remote, and hybrid work capabilities. The team also supports risk reduction and helps with effective incident response, lessons learned, and best practices to support secure operations and enhance cyber resilience across the DOE complex.

Member Highlights



Successful Project Controls Requires Integrating All Data Sources to Uncover Decisive Metrics

By Lee S. Gliddon III, Executive Vice President at Knowledge Relay



Insufficient Project Controls destroy budgets and create schedule delays.

We all know that Project Controls without decisive metrics can lead to poor decision-making, missed deadlines, and budget overruns. Ineffectual metrics pulled from project data can be misleading, inaccurate, or irrelevant to the project’s goals making it extremely difficult for project managers to accurately track progress, identify potential problems, and take corrective action.

But not all metrics are created equal, as some project metrics are always more important for Portfolio Management than others. Further, metrics must be accurate and timely, and data must be up to date so that managers can make informed decisions in the moment and address emerging issues before problems become serious.

Despite this critical need, it is impossible for Project Controls to uncover every decisive metric without integrating all data sources for the project.

Incomplete data sources cannot escape producing an incomplete picture of project performance, and prevent Project Controls’ teams from achieving the holistic view necessary to:

- Identify trends that may not be clear from incomplete data sources
- Identify risks and take early steps to mitigate them
- Generate accurate forecasts on progress, budget, and resource needs
- Continuously improve their decision-making

As such, integrating all data sources is essential for effective project control to surface decisive metrics and improve project success. However, there are huge challenges to integrating all data sources for a project—foremost that data is typically stored in different formats and systems, making it difficult to extract and integrate every data point.

At Knowledge Relay, we believe the benefits of integrating all data sources outweigh the costs of such difficulty—especially when site performance and careers are at stake.

For example, one of our clients is the Hanford Mission Integration Solutions (HMIS) team, comprised of partners trusted by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure safety and site integration at the Hanford site in Washington. Established in 1943 as part of the Manhattan Project, the Hanford site produced plutonium for national defense and the site is managed by two DOE offices where project control requires an integrated schedule for all of their prime contractors.

Despite this critical requirement, no internal IT team, no Ph.D. in Data Science, and no prime contractor to date has been able to successfully integrate all the data sources necessary to generate an integrated schedule.

But Knowledge Relay did!

Knowledge Relay integrated all five prime contractors for the first time—allowing for integrated schedules. Soon we will have their budgets integrated as well.

We are proud to deliver industry-leading BI, IT, data integration, and data visualization solutions to HMIS, and finally resolve their challenge of integrating all data sources across prime contractors.

Learn how we did it by connecting with me on [LinkedIn](#) or at [KnowledgeRelay.com](#)

Member Highlights



Legacy is defined by the Cambridge Dictionary as “something that is part of your history or remains from an earlier time.” This can pertain to different aspects in life, including to people and the knowledge and legacy they leave. The Manhattan Project was a pivotal project, not only for the United States, but also for the Oak Ridge and East Tennessee area.

Manhattan Legacy Service, LLC (MLS) is a woman-owned small business (WOSB) that supports private and government projects by providing highly experienced and trained experts in a full spectrum of professional services. It was born in 2016 as a nod to the great impact of both the Manhattan Project and the legacy it and those who collaborated on it, left after its completion.

MLS is built upon retaining and sharing the knowledge of employees with a wide range of experiences, who specialize in:

- Program Management
- Data File Support
- Material Control
- Intelligence Analysis
- Biology Consulting
- Chemistry and Design
- Security Escort Services

Located in Knoxville, MLS currently employs experts with extensive experience at both Y-12 National Security Complex and Oak Ridge National Laboratory and also deploys personnel to other DOE facilities in Texas and California.

Our clients include:

- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Federal Agencies
- Government contractors
- Private industry

In April 2021 MLS entered into a Mentor-Protégé agreement with Consolidated Nuclear Services (CNS) at Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, TN. The agreement provides a mechanism for CNS to work with MLS to provide non-financial assistance and is designed to enhance the protégé’s business and technical capabilities. The Mentor-Protégé agreement also provides MLS with the ability to support additional sole source contracts (at any dollar amount), the capability and willingness to grow in areas beneficial to the Nuclear Security Enterprise (NSE), and to partner with other national DOE facilities across the country.

Manhattan Legacy Service is committed to excellence and is honored to support our national mission.



Navarro Wins Follow-On Contract at Rocky Mountain Arsenal

OAK RIDGE, TN (September 2023) – Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc. (Navarro) was recently awarded the follow-on contract for Environmental Remediation Services in Support of Rocky Mountain Arsenal. Under this contract, Navarro will continue to provide Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of remediation systems at the 1,200-acre site in Commerce City, Colorado. The 9-year contract has a ceiling value of \$86M.

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) was established in 1942 by the U.S. Army to manufacture chemical weapons, later leasing facilities to industrial pesticide manufacturers. The site was placed on the National Priority List until 25-square miles of the site were determined to meet cleanup requirements and transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Navarro is responsible for performing the long-term remedy O&M on the remaining 1,200 acres for the Army, readying the site for eventual transfer.

Navarro performs O&M on five groundwater treatment plants, landfill/cover areas, and support facilities. This includes groundwater and surface water monitoring and non-routine activities such as technical site evaluations, remedy performance assessments, and engineering design and construction. Navarro also provides all program and project management and support functions such as quality management, health & safety, project management/project controls, regulatory compliance and interfaces, and waste management.

Our team has treated over 6 billion gallons of groundwater to date, completed the design and construction of new treatment systems, and demolished multiple obsolete structures, while also achieving significant cost savings for the government.

“We are excited to continue our working relationship with the U.S. Army supporting this critical remediation work,” says Susana Navarro, president and founder of Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc. “Since 2012 we have developed a partnership with the Army in our shared commitment to restoring the environment. We are honored to collaborate with them to achieve the cleanup objectives and long-term cooperative stewardship of the USFWS’s Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge. The RMA Wildlife Refuge is one of the largest urban refuges in the country. To know that our efforts contribute to learning opportunities for school-age children and public enjoyment adds significant value to our work.” Long-time Navarro RMA Program Manager, Anthony LaChance adds, “Our on-site team has achieved outstanding performance. It is a testament to the incredible teamwork, dedication, and expertise of our entire staff and we look forward to continuing our successful collaboration.”

Headquartered in Oak Ridge, TN, Navarro is an award-winning federal contractor that provides comprehensive solutions for environmental challenges faced across the United States for federal agencies including the Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Department of Defense, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Navarro specializes in environmental remediation, D&D, waste management, nuclear operations, clean energy, facilities management, and technical and professional services. For more information, please visit [Navarro-inc.com](https://www.navarro-inc.com).

Member Highlights



Navarro Wins Support Contract for U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office for the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Program

OAK RIDGE, TN (October 2023) – Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc. (Navarro) was recently awarded the contract for Program Management and Operational Support to the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office (GDO) for the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF). Navarro will support the implementation of the PR-ERF and its programs, benefitting the residents of Puerto Rico.

After Hurricane Fiona caused a territory-wide blackout on the island that was still rebuilding the grid after Hurricane Maria, President Joe Biden signed the FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law in December 2022, which included \$1 billion to establish the PR-ERF. This fund will improve Puerto Rico's electric grid and drive investments in renewable and resilient energy on the island, with an emphasis on vulnerable residents.

GDO's plans currently include 2 rounds of funding, with the first round of PR-ERF funding focused on deploying more than 30,000 residential rooftop solar and storage systems to vulnerable populations. Target populations include very low-income, single-family households that are either located in areas that have a high percentage of very low-income households and experience frequent and prolonged power outages or contain a family member with an energy-dependent disability. The second funding round will be announced at a later date.

Navarro will support the implementation of the PR-ERF, including assisting future recipients of the PR-ERF's first round Funding Opportunity Announcement and Solar Ambassador Prize in deploying residential solar and battery systems. Navarro will work closely with Community-Based Organizations in Puerto Rico to build beneficiary outreach capabilities including education and training programs for residents to learn and understand the program and benefits; support resident applicant intake and perform eligibility reviews and post-review communications; and perform post-solar installation inspections, validation, and monitoring for GDO. As a Hispanic-owned corporation, Navarro holds a special interest in the PR-ERF project.

"We see this as a way to give back to our community," says Dr. Susana Navarro, native Spanish-speaker, founder and president of Navarro Research and Engineering, Inc. "We have a strong commitment to leveraging our successful infrastructure, experience, and approach to improve the lives of low-income, at-risk Hispanic households by improving the sustainability, affordability, and resilience of the electric supply to their homes and communities."

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North Wind Focuses on Continued Safety, Excellence, and Growth

North Wind Group (North Wind) is pleased to announce Mr. Richard "Rich" Driggs has been appointed to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer Elect of North Wind, assuming the role on November 13, 2023. Rich Driggs is a respected leader in the engineering and construction industry that brings more than 30 years of experience acting as both CEO and COO for multi-national organizations. Mr. Driggs succeeds Christopher P. Leichtweis, who has led the company with extraordinary entrepreneurial spirit for the past 10 years. Driggs and Leichtweis will be working closely together through the end of the year to ensure a smooth and orderly transition.

North Wind recently achieved an EM 2023 priority at the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project last week by successfully relocating another 1 million tons of uranium mill tailings away from the Colorado River, bringing the cumulative total to 14 million tons permanently disposed.

North Wind Dynamics, the Infrastructure Support Services contractor at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, has notably marked 2 million consecutive safe work hours — or zero recordable injuries and illnesses — since the inception of its contract in 2016. In addition, North Wind also recently received its second DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Legacy of Stars Award, which is awarded to sites that have achieved the Star of Excellence award for four consecutive years. The Star of Excellence award is awarded to sites that maintain an injury and illness rate at least 75% below the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics industry average, actively mentor other companies, and demonstrate strong community involvement.

The 22nd Annual North Wind/Idaho State University Tom Sherwood Scholarship was awarded to two Idaho State University (ISU) students, Haley Wright and Joseph Hively, for \$4,461 each. In addition to the Sherwood scholarship, North Wind is proud to announce the addition of a new STEM scholarship offered this year, to benefit a current outstanding ISU STEM student, selected by ISU representatives. This year's first annual STEM scholarship was awarded to Levi Farber for \$2,087.

North Wind Group companies are small business leaders providing engineering, construction, environmental, and technical services to federal and state agencies and private industry. Founded in 1997, North Wind has grown to a group of companies employing more than 1,100 scientific, engineering, management, and professional personnel. Since 2010, North Wind has been a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI), an Alaska Native corporation (ANC). North Wind is headquartered in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and has a presence in 35 states and three countries.

For more information, visit the North Wind website at www.northwindgrp.com.

Member Highlights



Orano Completes Industry-first Segmentation of Massive Crystal River 3 Reactor Vessel into Three Pieces

Orano Decommissioning Services recently completed the first cut separating and then packaging the top third of the shutdown Crystal River 3 nuclear reactor vessel with its embedded internal components using Orano’s patented Optimized Segmentation process for the accelerated decommissioning project.

The Orano team first cut up the reactor vessel internals underwater and categorized them based on radioactivity, with the Greater-than-Class-C low-level waste separated and packaged for long-term onsite storage. The team then precisely packed the remaining low-level radioactive waste back into the reactor vessel in a way that optimized transportation and disposal cost-effectiveness.



Orano’s team lifted the first piece of Crystal River 3’s reactor pressure vessel after horizontally cutting the component and its repackaged segmented internals immobilized in solid grey grout.



The first piece of Crystal River 3’s reactor vessel was lowered into a custom-built package for eventual shipment to disposal.



The custom-built transport package on the transfer trailer for movement to the onsite temporary storage facility.

Once the reactor vessel was repacked and drained—still in its original vertical orientation in the reactor vessel cavity—it was filled with an engineered grout that hardened and transformed the reactor vessel and internals into a single, solid mass. To separate the top third of this structure into the first piece, the Orano team used diamond wire sawing to horizontally cut straight through the steel reactor vessel, solidified grout, and internals.

The 227 US-ton reactor vessel top segment was lifted out of the reactor vessel cavity and transferred into a custom-built package designed by Orano Federal Services. The team filled the package with grout to immobilize the contents before welding it shut in preparation for transportation to disposal.



Dr. Loong Yong Named to Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council

Spectra Tech’s President Loong Yong was appointed to the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council on July 13.

Dr. Yong and other industry experts comprise the council, which was created by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee’s Executive Order 101 to position Tennessee as a national leader for nuclear energy innovation and advancement.

“Tennessee can lead America’s energy independence and deliver continued economic growth with safe, reliable and clean nuclear energy for the future,” Lee said. “I am confident that these appointees will use their unique industry expertise to ensure that Tennessee is the top state for nuclear energy companies to invest and succeed, creating quality jobs and greater opportunity for Tennesseans.”



Dr. Loong Yong pictured, second from right, front row, at the first meeting of the Tennessee Nuclear Energy Advisory Council at Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville.

New Hire - Brian Livingston, IT Business Development Manager



Spectra Tech is pleased to welcome Brian Livingston, our new IT Business Development Manager, on board. He joined us on August 28 and is working from our corporate office.

Mr. Livingston has a BA degree with a concentration in Management Information Systems from Tennessee Technological University and over 16 years’ experience performing sales, recruiting, and business development work. He has worked extensively with both the Department of Energy and Department of Defense to provide quality, experienced personnel in support of Information Technology services in the areas of Applications, Infrastructure/Network, and Technical Support Services. He is a new member of the ETEBA, and was previously a member on the board of directors for the Chattanooga Technology Council.

Brian and his wife, Aleece, have three children (Chloe, Sarah, and Brady) and live in Knoxville, TN.

Member Highlights



Retired INL expert joins VNS Federal Services

Bob Miklos, a retired nuclear waste expert from the Idaho National Lab (INL), recently joined VNS Federal Services (VNSFS) as Executive Vice President of Program Assurance.

Miklos will help VNSFS continue its excellent quality culture and identify opportunities for performance improvement and technology innovation. He will leverage his experience with the national lab network to identify opportunities across the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) complex where Veolia can apply GeoMelt® and other technologies to develop solutions to DOE challenges.

VNSFS President and CEO Steve Moore called Miklos “a valuable resource who will help identify solutions to support our clients’ DOE missions.”

Miklos, who joined VNSFS on Aug. 28, said, “I am excited to be a part of the Veolia team and looking forward to leveraging my experience and skills to contribute to the company’s continued growth and long-term success.”



Miklos retired from INL after 23 years of service. He most recently held the position of Director of Production Facilities and Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities at INL’s Materials and Fuels Complex, where his responsibilities included spent fuel recycling, nuclear fuels management, waste management and legacy environmental waste disposition. He has more than 30 years of experience in disciplined operations of nuclear and non-nuclear facilities, spent fuel and waste management, start-up and testing, integrated safety management and project management of large-scale and complex projects. Prior to joining INL, Miklos spent 18 years in large-scale commercial construction, capital asset projects and U.S. Department of Defense construction, submarine overall and aircraft carrier prototype overhaul, defueling and refueling, and decommissioning experience.

Miklos is actively engaged in the Energy Facilities Contractors Group (EFCOG), currently serving on its Board of Directors and previously as chair of its Project Delivery Working Group. He holds undergraduate degrees in engineering from Pennsylvania State University and Old Dominion University. He is a PMI-certified Project Management Professional and a Stanford University Certified Project Manager.

Veolia earns top spot from ENR for third year

Engineering News Record (ENR) has named Veolia the top environmental firm in the world for the third year in a row. In addition to being the top overall environmental firm on ENR’s list of the Top 200 global environmental companies in 2022, Veolia was also recognized as the top company in four specific market segments: Hazardous Waste, Water Treatment/Supply, Air Quality/Clean Energy, and Wastewater Treatment – all rankings it also earned for 2021. Veolia ranked first in terms of revenue from private and state/local clients and third in Construction/Remediation. Veolia was also named the number one firm working in non-U.S. locations.

The annual ENR listing ranks firms worldwide based on the percentage of 2022 gross revenue reported from environmental services. Veolia Group widened its list dominance this year, reporting \$45.2 billion in ENR criteria revenue from global water and waste sector work.



Alaron scores great results in DOE audit

Alaron Nuclear Services, which VNS Federal Services operates in western Pennsylvania, successfully completed the DOECAP Transport, Storage and Disposal Facility audit at the end of August. These rigorous audits evaluate a facility’s ability to treat, store and dispose of DOE waste in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment. The recent positive audit results show that Alaron maintains the highest possible compliance and safety standards in managing all materials on site.



VNS Federal Services scores high marks in triennial quality audit

VNS Federal Services (VNSFS) passed its most recent quality audit with no issues reported. The triennial audit of the ISO 9001:2015 program took place in early October. It was conducted by the ISO registrar, Orion.

“There were no findings and no opportunities for improvement documented in the audit,” which means that VNSFS maintains its ISO 9001:2015 certificate, explained Janelle McCallum, VNSFS Corporate QA Manager.

VNSFS implements a Quality Management System (QMS) that complies with NQA-1-2008 requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications and is ISO 9001:2015 certified. The VNSFS QMS addresses a comprehensive quality program which includes a strategic plan that emphasizes enhancing customer satisfaction.



ISO 9001:2015
Certified
Quality Management

Veolia on winning team at PORTS

Veolia Nuclear Solutions (VNS) Federal Services is part of contract-winning team for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) cleanup contract in Ohio.

The DOE Office of Environmental Management awarded the Portsmouth Decontamination and Decommissioning (PORTS D&D) contract July 13 to Southern Ohio Cleanup Company (SOCCo). VNSFS serves as an integrated subcontractor of SOCCo. The venture is led by Amentum, Fluor and Cavendish Nuclear.

The contract has an estimated value of \$5.87 billion, over a 10-year period, and includes performance of task orders issued up to an additional five years.

SBA approves Veolia and Akana mentor-protégé agreement

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved a Mentor-Protégé Agreement between Akana, a Native American-owned small business based in Portland, Oregon, and VNS Federal Services (VNSFS).



The SBA Mentor-Protégé program helps small businesses (protégés) partner with more experienced businesses (mentors) to gain capacity and win government contracts. VNSFS, as the Mentor, will provide mentoring assistance to Akana, including management and technical support, contracting guidance, and business development support during the course of the six-year agreement. In addition, as part of the program, Akana and VNSFS will form a mentor-protégé Joint Venture, allowing the companies to jointly pursue small business-oriented architectural and engineering opportunities.

“VNSFS and Akana have a long-term working relationship at the DOE Hanford and Nevada sites. We are thrilled to continue our work with the Akana team and support their efforts to develop their engineering capabilities and attain an NQA-1 quality program while mutually growing at other sites across the DOE complex.” said Sean McGraw, Vice President of Strategy & Business Development for VNSFS.

To learn more, visit www.vnsfederalservices.com