

SMALL BUSINESS SECTOR

CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE ACQUISITION INITIATIVES FORUM (CBDAIF)

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Small Business Sector Goal

Increase, promote, champion, develop and encourage the use of small businesses in CBD acquisition practices for research, development and procurement of CBD goods and services.

Small Business Sector Charter

- Review, discuss, and recommend initiatives in acquisition excellence that are of joint benefit to the CBD small business sector and the CBD stakeholders.
- Examine industry and government practices that impact the small business sector in the acquisition of goods and services in support of the CBD stakeholders.
- Recommend, promote and increase the utilization of small businesses in research, development and acquisition of CBD services and hardware.

Small Business Sector Challenges

- Small businesses is overarching and they are represented in all of the individual technical sectors. Duplication among other CBDAIF groups limits small business representation in the small business sectors.
- Mostly targeted towards business opportunities. Technical issues are normally discussed at the individual technical sector

Small Business Sector Challenges

- Technology Outreach - Better approach for technology outreach efforts that would enhance small business participation. Although not deliberate , strategy seems to be to have them align with primes. However, primes have the “not invented here syndrome “ thus can preclude picking up good technologies. Small business often have funding limitations that don't allow participation in these tests. Perhaps some sort of set-aside or incentive could be established in the future for technology evaluation.

Small Business Sector Challenges

- Find ways to support technology readiness evaluations. For a small business this is often very difficult as it requires a substantial investment of internal funds, systems and personnel. Exposure of technologies may be missed due to limitation of resources
- Major acquisitions rely on large primes to develop and self enforce small business participation. No independent score keeping after contracts are awarded.

Small Business Sector – Next Term

- My term is expiring next January 2010.
- Candidates will be submitted for consideration by the end of October.
- Newly selected Small Business sector representative will be introduced at that time.