

# GovConcepts

GACO APEX ACCELERATOR QUARTERLY INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

## ***Department of War (DoW) Announces New Supplier Registration Website***

The Department of War (DoW) LYNX system is a digital engagement and readiness platform launched in January 2026 by the DoD/DoW Office of Small Business Programs to help businesses enter and compete in defense markets. LYNX enables companies, especially small businesses, new entrants, and non-traditional suppliers, to create profiles, assess their readiness, and receive data-driven roadmaps that guide them toward meeting defense requirements. The platform improves visibility of supplier capabilities and facilitates connections with mission-aligned partners and opportunities across the defense industrial base thus reducing barriers to participation and accelerates engagement with the DoD.

### **Why should a business register in LYNX?**

- Establish credibility with DoD/DoW buyers
- Receive guided assessments and roadmaps
- Reduce barriers to entering the defense market
- Increase visibility and opportunities

LYNX Platform is open for registrations: <https://www.lynxconnect.io>

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## ***DoW Six Critical Technology Priorities***

The Department of War announced in November 2025 a paring back of critical technology areas from 14 to 6. This shift is intended to concentrate investments to areas DoD/DoW believes will provide the warfighter with the greatest advantage in the future. The reduction of focus areas doesn't eliminate the previous 8 technology areas. These 8 areas have been consolidated into the 6 focus areas. To learn more about the priorities below, visit <https://www.cto.mil/cta/>

1. Applied Artificial Intelligence (AAI)
2. Biomanufacturing (BIO)
3. Contested Logistics Technologies (LOG)
4. Quantum and Battlefield Information Dominance (Q-BID)
5. Scaled Hypersonics (SHY)
6. Scaled Directed Energy (SCADE)

## ***SBIR Reauthorization***

The SBIR and STTR programs were officially reauthorized on April 13, 2026, after a nearly seven month lapse that left thousands of small businesses in funding limbo. President Trump signed the **Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act (S. 3971)**, securing a five-year extension for "America's Seed Fund" through September 30, 2031.

### **Why It Matters**

For months, agencies were prohibited from issuing new solicitations, forcing many tech startups to pause research or reduce staff. This reauthorization restores long term certainty and funding for critical research and development in defense, healthcare, and energy.

### **Key Changes to the Program**

The new legislation introduces several updates aimed at protecting national security and improving commercial outcomes:

- **Strategic Breakthrough Awards:** A high value Phase II pathway offering up to \$30 million for critical technologies, provided there are 100% matching funds.
- **Enhanced Security Vetting:** To combat foreign influence, agencies must now conduct rigorous due diligence on an applicant's foreign ownership, investment relationships, and affiliations with "countries of concern."
- **Application Limits:** Agencies will implement annual submission caps per firm to prevent "program gaming" and ensure awards are distributed among a broader range of emerging businesses.
- **Carryover Funding:** Agencies with unspent funds from FY2026 are permitted to roll them into FY2027 to jumpstart the program.

### **What is SBIR/STTR?**

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, collectively known as America's Seed Fund, are highly competitive federal programs that provide over \$4 billion in non-dilutive funding annually to small businesses. These programs allow startups to explore their technological potential and profit from its commercialization without giving up equity or intellectual property rights.

## ***State of PA Mentor Protégé Program***

In 2024 the state of Pennsylvania launched the Small Business Mentor Protégé Program under Governor Shapiro's Executive Order 2023-18. The first cohort included 15 IT service businesses and centered on business development, procurement readiness, leadership and strategic planning.

In August 2025 a second cohort was announced, expanding eligibility to Consulting Services ITQ participants. Learn more about the program and requirements at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dgs/programs-and-services/disbo/mentor-protege-program>.

## ***Elimination of FPDS System***

A longstanding online tool for researching contract award data, the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS), was decommissioned earlier this year. The data previously found in FPDS is now accessible through the [Data Bank](#) feature on [SAM.gov](#) and anyone that wants to access this contract data will need to have a SAM.gov user account.

There are various ways that historical contract data can assist both companies currently doing work on government projects and those aspiring to do so. Contract data can help your organization determine a.) which agencies buy what you sell or b.) what companies have been awarded contracts and might be looking for subcontractors on future projects. Contract dollar amounts, spending trends, competitor activity and set-aside information are other examples of the valuable information found in the Data Bank.

Using SAM.gov to locate federal contract information can be overwhelming, but GACO can help. In addition to federal data, we can also teach you how to research state and local contract information. Please feel free to contact us for more information or to request assistance.

## *Upcoming Events*

### **2026 FEDERAL LAB CONSORTIUM NATIONAL MEETING**

May 12 - 14, 2026 | Seattle, Washington

**REGISTER**

### **NAVY WEEK - HARRISBURG**

May 20, 2026 | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

**REGISTER**

### **NAVY & MARINE CORPS PROCUREMENT CONFERENCE**

May 28 - 29, 2026 | Norfolk, Virginia

**REGISTER**

### **DLA SUPPLY CHAIN ALLIANCE SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION**

June 2 - 3, 2026 | Columbus, Ohio

**REGISTER**

### **NCMA WORLD CONGRESS 2026**

July 26 - 29, 2026 | Lake Buena Vista, Florida

**REGISTER**

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## *Further Reading*

[RULE OF TWO AND GOVERNMENT MARKET RESEARCH - FAR PART 10 & 19 CHANGES](#)

[DoW LYNX INFORMATION](#)

[PENTAGON PARES DOWN CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY LIST](#)

[DoW CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREAS](#)

[DoW RESTRUCTURES FOREIGN MILITARY SALES](#)

[DLA "THE LINK" NEWSLETTER](#)

[SBIR/STTR PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZED](#)

## ***What You Missed - Recent GACO Training Events Recap***

### **PA Cybersecurity Resource Center - CMMC Resource Center - Level 1 Certification Webinar**

Dr. Kevin Slonka and Mr. Richard Wolford of the Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Resource Center discussed government contractor cybersecurity and the PA Cybersecurity Resource Center. Topics included: impacts of cybersecurity on the government contracting environment, basic safeguarding of covered contractor information systems (FAR 52.204-21), the importance of cybersecurity implications and CMMC Levels 1 and 2.

### **DoD Mentor - Protege Program (MPP) Webinar**

The Department of Defense/Department of War Mentor-Protégé Program is one of many ways that small businesses can gain experience and develop their capabilities. Under the guidance of an approved mentor, small businesses can gain valuable skills that will increase their ability to win prime contracts. These improvements can range from back-end human resource processes and compliance assistance to quality assurance plans and technology transfer.

### **Local Procurement - City of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Sports and Exhibition Authority (SEA) Webinar**

Procurement officials from both agencies provided guidance on registering as a vendor and locating opportunities as well as shared procurement forecasts for their agencies.

## ***TRIVIA!!***

**What movie franchise released its first film May 25, 1977?**

A: Star Wars!



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