

# PTAC Link

PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER - CONNECTING BUYERS & SUPPLIERS

Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

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## *Upcoming Events & New Year Greetings*

Happy New Year 2017 from the Southern Alleghenies PTAC staff! We're looking forward to helping you in the upcoming year with any aspects in government contracting!

Looking ahead, we have some interesting outreach events, such as a Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) online training on February 22 ([Register here: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5243623008926530562](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5243623008926530562)), a SBA Matchmaking event on May 25, and a Veteran-Owned Small Business Seminar, date T/B/D. Keep a lookout for emails and newsletters from us regarding these events.

Thank you again,  
Gloria, Jill, and James

*If you have any questions on the above events, or would like to see a course put on, please contact James Gerraughty at [jgerraughty@sapdc.org](mailto:jgerraughty@sapdc.org) or (814) 949-6528 with your ideas.*



## *2017 Shale Gas Innovation Contest!*

STATE COLLEGE, PA - The Ben Franklin Shale Gas Innovation and Commercialization Center [www.sgicc.org](http://www.sgicc.org) is excited to announce their 6th Annual Shale Gas Innovation Contest, offering a total of \$60,000 in cash prizes for the three best shale energy oriented innovations, new product ideas, or service concepts that are either in the development stage or recently launched. Researchers, entrepreneurs, or small businesses in Pennsylvania focused on developing a new product or service with applicability to the oil and gas industry can apply. A simple online application can be found at <http://www.sgicc.org/2017-shale-gas-innovation-contest.html>.

In addition to the cash prizes, successful applicants will gain exposure to investors, potential partners, and industry sponsors. Additionally at this year's Finals Event, already scheduled to take place on May 9th, 2017, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Southpointe, PA, there will be a poster session included to highlight some of the most promising technologies under development at ([Click here for further details about the Contest](#)).

### About the SGICC

*The Ben Franklin Shale Gas Innovation and Commercialization Center ([www.sgicc.org](http://www.sgicc.org)) is designed to harness innovation and new technologies as a means to maximize the economic return to Pennsylvania's citizens from the Marcellus and Utica shale formations. The Center's goal is to increase sustainable employment and wealth creation in Pennsylvania that has the potential to outlast the initial exploration, production and transportation of natural gas from the formations. The Center will also identify, support and commercialize technologies and early-stage businesses that enhance responsible stewardship of the environment while properly utilizing this transformative energy asset.*

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## *2017 NDAA Increases DoD Micro-Purchase Threshold to \$5,000*



By Matthew Moriarty

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act will increase the DoD's micro-purchase threshold to \$5,000.

Under the conference bill recently approved by both House and Senate, the DoD's micro-purchase threshold will be \$1,500 greater than the standard micro-purchase threshold applicable to civilian agencies.

A micro-purchase is an acquisition by the government of supplies or services that, because the aggregate is below a certain price, allows the government to avoid many of the ordinary competitive requirements under the FAR, including small business set-aside requirements. The FAR's micro-purchase guidelines are set forth primarily in FAR 13.2.

Although there are many different thresholds, the FAR puts the general micro-purchase threshold at \$3,500. But Section 821 of the proposed 2017 NDAA will add a new section to chapter 137 of title 10 of the United States Code giving the DoD its own micro-purchase threshold of \$5,000.

It may not sound like much, but that's nearly a 43% increase from the current micro-purchase threshold (and the threshold that will remain applicable to most agencies). Although DoD procurement officials will undoubtedly enjoy [\(Click to read all of the article\)](#).

Article accessed 12/16/2016

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## Representative Steve Chabot (OH-1) to Chair House Small Business Committee

WASHINGTON-Small Business Committee Chairman Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) was elected by his House peers on Monday, December 19, 2016, to serve as Chairman of the Small Business Committee for the 115th Congress.

"I'm honored to serve a second term as Chairman of the House Small Business Committee and I'm grateful for the confidence of my colleagues as we build on the great work of all of our Committee Members from the last two years," Chairman Chabot said. "We now have an historic opportunity to bring swift and lasting regulatory relief and certainty [\(Click for remainder of this article\)](#)."

Article accessed 12/19/2016

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*Changes to the SDVOSB Program in the 2017 NDAA*

# Via Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC)

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) makes important changes to the contracting landscape for Service-Disabled Veteran-owned small businesses. First, it consolidates what are currently two separate and distinct SDVOSB programs: the SBA's self-certification program and the VA's program. The NDAA sets forth a unified statutory definition of veteran-owned companies and calls for the SBA, not the VA, to issue regulations implementing the statute, including verification of SDVOSB companies. It expressly prohibits the VA from adopting regulations governing the ownership and control of SDVOSBs.

It also makes significant adjustments regarding ownership and control of SDVOSBs. It:

- Modifies how the ownership criteria are applied in the case of an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP), stipulating that stock in the plan is not considered when the SBA or VA determines whether service-connected veterans own at least 51 percent of the company's stock,
- Specifies that a veteran with a permanent and severe disability need not personally manage the company on a day-to-day basis, but that the "spouse or permanent caregiver of such veteran" may run the company,
- Permits a surviving spouse to continue to operate the company as an SDVOSB, provided that: [\(more information can be found by clicking here\)](#).

Article accessed 12/19/2016 via the monthly APTAC Newsletter.

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## About Us

The PTAC at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The PTAC stands ready to support businesses in the Alleghenies region in their pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide by:



- Identifying niche government markets and specific contract opportunities
- Assisting with bid and proposal preparation
- Preparing the required vendor registrations
- Navigating your company through the requirements and procedures of government contracting
- Enhancing competition by obtaining applicable socio-economic certifications
- Providing guidance to ensure successful post-award contract performance

**Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the PTAC are free of charge.**

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the PTAC will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing the following program resources to

increase your share of contact awards.

### **PTAC Resources**

- Electronic Bid Matching for products and services
- Military/Commercial specifications and standards
- Past procurement information and pricing histories
- State and Federal regulations guidance
- Professional training and outreach events
- Quality assurance and packaging guidance

Contact us today at [The PTAC at SAP&DC](#) to get started!



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