

Continued Opportunities for Small Business

President Clinton's Five-Point Plan for speeding cleanup and revitalizing communities effected by closure typifies the approach of thinking globally and acting locally. DoD's commitment to small businesses encourages them to get information about opportunities nationally and participate locally.

A key role in DoD's environmental restoration program is played by small businesses. Businesses that engage in environmental restoration work at DoD installations are usually located in the area and can provide unique insight into environmental restoration work in that locale. Such expertise is often responsible for providing innovative solutions to local problems.

Small firms have expertise that allows them to provide innovative solutions to local problems.

Employing almost 60 percent of American workers, small businesses account for half of all private sector growth. Small business participation in DoD programs has continued to rise since 1987, when Congress mandated that DoD set aside a percentage of its contracts to small and small disadvantaged businesses. During FY95, small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, and women-owned businesses received \$25.3 billion, or 23 percent, of all contracts awarded by DoD.

Working together, the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security (ODUSD(ES)) and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) identified new opportunities for small businesses in the DoD environmental restoration program.

In FY95, the Environmental Cleanup/Small Business work group continued its effort to foster new initiatives for small businesses. Small business experts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Navy, the Air Force, and representatives from ODUSD(ES) and SADBU meet monthly to exchange information and identify new ways to engage small businesses in environmental restoration.

"Government can be as innovative as the best of our private sector businesses"

--President Clinton

Addressing the White House Conference on Small Business

To take advantage of the World Wide Web, the Environmental Cleanup/Small Business work group and the Defense Technical Information Center established the *Environmental Restoration Electronic Bulletin Board* (<http://www.dtic.dla.mil/envirodod/envirodod.html>)

). This resource provides small businesses with a broad range of information about the DoD environmental restoration program.

The home page features:

- Long-range budget estimates from each of the Services
- The DERP FY94 Annual Report to Congress
- Various small business publications produced by SADBU
- Other information on the DoD environmental restoration program, including upcoming conferences and points of contact within each Component

The home page was devised to help small businesses save time and resources by consolidating contracting information for each of the Components. From April to December 1995, more than 93,000 inquiries were received by the home page from locations as far away as Europe, Asia, Australia, and South Africa.

DoD Helpnet Directory	
Environmental Security	http://www.acq.osd.mil/ens/
Environmental Cleanup/Small Business	http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/envirodod.html
Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office	http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	http://www.usace.army.mil
Navy Facilities Engineering Command	http://www.navy.mil/homepages/navfac

"In government, our task is to provide the tools to harness innovative talents for the benefit of the U.S. economy and America's Armed Forces."

--Paul G. Kaminski, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology)

In FY95, SADBU and the Environmental Cleanup/Small Business work group completed the *Guide to Department of Defense Environmental Procurements: Making the Most of Your Opportunities*. The guide provides procurement information small business owners need to know to work on DoD environmental restoration projects. The guide also provides information on the goals of the DoD environmental restoration program, typical restoration tasks conducted by the Components, types of environmental contracts, Federal and state environmental laws, unique liabilities associated with environmental contracting, approaches for entering the DoD environmental market, and other valuable information. The guide can be accessed on the Environmental Restoration Electronic Bulletin Board.

The Environmental Cleanup/Small Business work group also helped develop training materials for its DoD small business representatives to raise their awareness of the many business opportunities available in the environmental restoration arena.

The Environmental Cleanup/Small Business work group created the Environmental Cleanup Small Business Awards to recognize small businesses that perform restoration work for DoD. The first annual awards were presented by Sherri W. Goodman, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) during Earth Week 1995. Four small and small disadvantaged businesses received the awards for outstanding performance records in DoD's environmental restoration program: Consultants of Alaska; Operational Technologies, Inc., of Texas; Cheyenne Building Contractors, Inc., of New Mexico; and the Environmental Chemical Corporation of California. These businesses were nominated by the DoD Components.

Four small or small disadvantaged businesses were presented the first Annual Environmental Cleanup Small Business Awards during Earth Week 1995.

The following examples illustrate the value of small business participation in DoD's environmental restoration program and the innovative ways in which small businesses have assisted DoD in its mission to protect human health and the environment.

Award of Excellence for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, Washington

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District partnered with the Small Business Administration to increase the participation of small and small disadvantaged businesses in their environmental restoration program. Several medium-sized restoration projects were combined, and a basic ordering agreement was developed under the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program. The goals of the project included increasing small disadvantaged business participation in environmental contracting, selecting one team for the total life-cycle of restoration projects, and reducing the contracting effort required to accomplish cleanup at numerous relatively small sites.

A team consisting of ten 8(a) firms and one large environmental firm was selected to provide restoration services at Fort Lewis, Washington, and other DoD locations in the Washington State area. The Seattle District had awarded 16 task orders to the team through the end of FY95.

The Small Business Administration presented an "Award of Excellence" to the Seattle District for its creativity in fostering opportunities in environmental restoration. In this positive effort, two Federal agencies and the private sector worked together to achieve mutual goals of protecting human health and the environment, while increasing economic opportunities for small businesses in the area.

Small Business Success at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station, Pennsylvania



A project engineer gives a representative of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment a tour of Willow Grove Air Reserve Station.

The initial remedial action for a fuel oil-contaminated site at Willow Grove Air Reserve Station involved installing a traditional groundwater pump-and-treat system. In FY95, this method was changed to a vapor extraction and bioremediation system installed by a local small business. Benefits of the new system include substantially reduced costs and complete restoration in 3 to 5 years, instead of the 10 to 20 years typical of groundwater pump-and-treat systems.

The success of the vapor extraction and bioremediation method has even received international attention. Estonia, a small Baltic country formerly part of the Soviet Union, was at one time host to almost 500 Soviet Union military installations. As at DoD installations, contamination from leaking fuel tanks and pipelines present major environmental problems at these installations. The Director of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Normatives Division of the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia visited Willow Grove Air Reserve Station to gain a better understanding of bioremediation as a viable environmental restoration technology.

The Director of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Normatives Division of the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, visited Willow Grove Air Reserve Station to observe the successful bioremediation techniques applied by a small business.

BRAC Cleanup Support for Alameda Naval Air Station

Alameda Naval Air Station was placed on the BRAC list in July 1993. To assist the installation with its remediation efforts, the Navy hired a local small business to conduct removal actions. The firm selected provides technical support, advises the Navy on California's extensive regulatory requirements, assists with the risk assessment process, and gives presentations before the Alameda Restoration Advisory Board. The Navy rated this small business as an above-average contractor because of its versatility, rapid deployment, and excellent and timely support of the Navy's efforts.

As the Federal government continues to reduce the contracting regulatory burden on small businesses, the Components will continue to form partnerships with small businesses who can assist them with environmental restoration.

As the contracting regulatory burden on small business decreases, Components will continue to form partnerships with small business.