SciComm, Inc.

A Small Business Success Story

SciComm, Inc., is a Missile Defense Agency (MDA) SADBU Office success story. This story begins in 1992 when SciComm, a woman and minority-owned firm, was a glimmer of hope for its founders, Laura Chen and Dan Lewis. At the time, MDA (formerly BMDO) was seeking a Small Business Administration 8(a) firm that could assist MDA’s External Affairs Office (EA). To fulfill the requirement, the SADBU Office and EA identified potential candidates from a list of SBA 8(a) certified firms and, after a careful selection process, selected SciComm.

After three years, SciComm was awarded a second contract with EA. In all, MDA has awarded SciComm three consecutive EA contracts that

continued on page 6

HBCU/MI News

The Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) office of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) recently participated in the Department of Defense (DoD) Historically Black Colleges and Universities / Minority Institutions (HBCU/MI) Technical Assistance Conference, held at San Antonio, Texas, from 25-27 February 2002. Dr. Pravat K. Choudhury, MDA’s SADBU Office’s Small Business Development Specialist, attended the conference and gave a presentation on “Opportunities for HBCU/MI at the Missile Defense Agency.” The presentation was given to the attendees who were representatives from various HBCU/MI from all over the U.S., including representatives from tribal colleges, and some small and large businesses.

The SADBU office of MDA is expecting to issue a set-aside Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) during October or November 2002 seeking proposals from HBCU/MI from all over the U.S. and Europe. This BAA is issued every two years, and is designed to assist HBCU/MI to eventually compete for funds under the Advanced Technology (AT) main basic research program at MDA, as well as to compete for general funding along with other institutions of higher learning.

New and Recent Contracts

On 01 November 2001, Ares Corporation was awarded a contract, valued at $929,668.00, to provide objective, independent, expert, and scientific assessments to the Chief Scientist, and Deputy for Advanced Concepts (AC), as well as other areas where needed. This contract has a twelve-month base period with no options and ends on 31 October 2002.

On 01 November 2001, CMS Information Services, Inc. was awarded a delivery order, valued at $4,844,216.00, to provide services in support to the MDA Resource Management Information Technology Directorate supporting the MDA Automated Information Systems. This order has a six-month base period with no options and ends on 30 April 2002.

On 01 November 2001, the continue on page 6
**Director’s Message**

As part of the Missile Defense Agency’s reorganization, a new area of responsibility was transferred to the SADBU office — the administration of the SBIR/STTR program. The daily operations of this important program have been assigned to the SADBU office, while the evaluation of proposals is the responsibility of the Advanced Concepts Deputate.

While many things in the SBIR/STTR program will remain the same, it is gradually being transitioned to play a greater role in the government sector. Previously, the focus was on private development, and while this aspect will remain, we are seeing a steady shift to include more of the public sector, with the ultimate goal continuing to be to provide quality innovations for eventual use in the government sector.

A new facet to the program is the addition of more knowledge specific points of contact (POC). These POCs will be readily-available to answer questions and provide direction to those individuals and organizations that wish to submit proposals, during the pre-solicitation phase. This will allow for an enhanced knowledge exchange between MDA and solicitors. MDA’s next pre-solicitation period begins on 1 May 2002 and will close on 1 July 2002.

The acting MDA SBIR/STTR Program Manager, Frank Rucky, will be glad to answer any questions regarding the administration of the program. You may leave a message for him at 1-800-WIN-BMDO.

MDA’s SADBU office is continually striving to provide quality assistance to those small businesses wishing to do business with MDA. For further information, concerning the small business program at MDA please contact the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) at (703) 697-8017. ♦

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**Missile Defense Agency’s SMALL BUSINESS DAY**

Date: 9 May 2002  
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Henderson Hall  
1555 South Gate Road,  
Arlington, VA

For more information and to register go to:  
http://www.mdasbday.com
On January 2, 2002, Missile Defense Agency (MDA) released their new Organizational Chart (see below), incorporating their name change. With the reorganization complete, MDA’s Small and Disadvantaged Business Office (SADBU) has been chosen to perform the administrative duties of the SBIR / STTR Program. More information on this change can be found in the Director’s Message of this Newsletter.

The Organizational Chart can also be found on the web at the following address: http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/orgcht.html.

If you have any questions regarding the reorganization, please feel free to contact the MDA SADBU Office, at (703) 697-8017.
MDA NEWS... MDA NEWS...

MDA SBIR Solicitation


MDA will also have a second SBIR solicitation, which will open on 1 July 2002 and close on 14 August 2002. To check for updates and to receive more information about this program go to http://www.winbmdo.com/.

MDA STTR Solicitation

On 1 March 2002, MDA opened the MDA Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) 2002 Phase I solicitation. For each proposal that is submitted to MDA, you will be required to complete an online form, and upload the electronic version of the technical proposal in a Word, WordPerfect, or PDF format to http://www.dodsbir.net/submission. A hard copy submission of the Technical Proposal is no longer required. The only paper submission required is the signed original of the Cover Sheet. The Cover Sheet may be printed out during the online submission process. No award will be made without a signed original Cover Sheet. Offerors are strongly encouraged to furnish it by 17 April 2002 or, at minimum, before contract award. Please send to:

Missile Defense Agency
ATTN: SB/SBIR (Rucky)
7100 Defense Pentagon, FOB#2
Washington, DC 20301-7100

To check for updates and to receive more information about this program go to http://www.winbmdo.com/.

The MDA SBIR/STTR Program Manager, Frank Rucky, will be glad to answer any questions regarding the administration of the program. Please call 1-800-WIN-BMDO.

DURIP

The Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP) is a multi-agency Department of Defense (DoD) program, within the University Research Initiative, designed to aid the improvement of U.S. institutions of higher education’s capabilities to conduct research. DURIP also assists with educating scientists and engineers in areas important to national defense, by providing funds for the acquisition of research equipment.

DURIP funds will be used for the acquisition of major equipment to augment current or develop new research capabilities in support of DoD-relevant research. Organization or individuals may submit proposals requesting from $50,000 to $1,000,000. Proposals for purely instructional equipment are not eligible. General-purpose computing facilities are not appropriate for DURIP funding, but requests for computers for DoD-relevant research programs are appropriate. Funds under DURIP will not be used for construction, including building or facilities modification.

The next submission date for the DURIP has not been announced. To check for updates and/or find out more about this program, you are encouraged to go to the following web site: http://www.onr.navy.mil/sci_tech/industrial/durip.htm.

DEPSCoR

The Department of Defense Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was created in response to Congressional requirements to stimulate competitive research in states that have not traditionally been recipients of a large amount of Federal research awards. DEPSCoR is designed to improve the capabilities of U.S. institutions of higher education in eligible states, to conduct research, and to educate scientists and engineers in areas important to national defense.

Proposals to perform research in technical areas identified as being of interest to Office of Naval Research (ONR), or other areas important to national defense, will be considered. Potential proposers are advised to consult the Science and Technology section of ONR’s home page (http://www.onr.navy.mil/) and to contact ONR program managers to explore possible mutual interests before submitting proposals. In this way, DEPSCoR contributes to the States’ goals of developing new research capabilities while simultaneously supporting DoD research goals.

DEPSCoR funds may be used to develop new research capabilities in support of DoD research goals. Proposals may contain requests for equipment necessary for the completion of the proposed research. Funds under DEPSCoR may not be used for buildings or facilities modification.

The submission date for the next fiscal year and the awards for this fiscal year for the DEPSCoR have not been announced. To check for updates and/or find out more about
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Small Business Administration has increased its revenue-based size standards for small businesses by 15.8 percent to account for inflation since 1994, SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto announced.

Since the size standards are used to determine whether a business is a small business for the purposes of eligibility for SBA programs, the inflation adjustments will make it possible for at least 8,600 companies to regain their eligibility as small businesses.

The new standards were published in the Federal Register on January 23, 2002, as an interim final rule with a 30-day comment period. They became effective on February 22, 2002. For small businesses located in the September 11 presidentially declared disaster areas of metropolitan New York City and Northern Virginia, the new regulations will apply retroactively to Sept. 11, 2001.

As a result, the SBA’s Office of Disaster Assistance will go back and review applications for disaster recovery loans in those areas to determine whether those that were rejected because they didn’t qualify as small businesses have become eligible for assistance.

“This adjustment of SBA’s size standards will restore small business status to many firms that became ineligible for SBA assistance strictly because of inflation,” says SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “I find it especially important that we are able to apply retroactively these updated size standards to firms applying for Economic Injury Disaster Loans due to the September 11 attacks.”

The SBA adjusts the revenue-based size standards using the chain-type price index used by the Department of Commerce to measure inflation in the economy.

Revenue-based size standards for small businesses had not been updated for inflation since 1994. Industry sectors whose size standards had been changed for other criteria that also included inflation since 1994 will be adjusted accordingly to match the new percentage.

For additional information on the new size standards, visit the SBA’s Office of Size Standards Web page at www.sba.gov/size, and click on “What’s New?”

SBA Funds Grant Program for Very Small Businesses

WASHINGTON — America’s smallest businesses will now have access to more training and technical assistance to help them start or grow a business under a new program funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the agency announced today.

Under the PRIME program – Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs – the SBA provided federal funds to community-based, regional and national organizations that in turn will offer training and technical assistance to low-income and very low-income entrepreneurs with small businesses of five employees or less.

“The PRIME program was created to help the smallest of small businesses. These are entrepreneurs at the most basic stage of starting a business and who typically require the greatest amount of committed service and guidance,” SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. “In order to succeed, they require training and technical assistance that must be accessible.”

While the U.S. Department of Commerce has estimated that more than two million businesses in the United States are operated by low-income and very low-income entrepreneurs, other studies indicate that only a mere fraction of this population receives business assistance. The major focus of the PRIME program is business-based assistance to precisely these low-income and very low-income entrepreneurs who lack sufficient training and education to gain access to capital to establish and expand their own small businesses.

The SBA has selected 69 organizations in 28 states to provide this service.

During this inaugural year of the PRIME program, SBA is focusing on economically distressed areas. Also under the PRIME program, the SBA provided 15 grants to improve the delivery of services to very small businesses by organizations that provide training and technical assistance. Two other organizations received funding to conduct research and development on how to improve these services.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners who may qualify to receive training or technical assistance under the PRIME program should contact a local SBA district office listed at www.sba.gov/services.

Notice regarding disaster relief: The U.S. Small Business Administration has extended the filing deadline for small business owners across the country to apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to April 22, 2002. The original deadline was January 21, 2002. For more information on the SBA’s disaster assistance program, visit the web site at www.sba.gov/disaster.
Small Business Profile — RNB
(cont’d from page 1)

continue until April 2002. Through these contracts, the SciComm Team, managed by Neil Buttimer and now David Morris assists Ms. Jacqueline Morales and EA with information management services in the areas of legislative tracking and security, and policy review.

Due in large part to the successful performance on the EA contracts, SciComm was awarded the contract to support the MDA Historian. Subsequently, SciComm has been awarded two consecutive contracts to support the MDA Historian that will continue until August 2003. Through these contracts, the SciComm Team, managed by Phil Wargo, assists Dr. Donald Baucom, the MDA Historian, in maintaining a comprehensive chronology of MDA activities and providing a historical resource for MDA.

There is even more to the SciComm success story. In 1995, SciComm was awarded a small business set-aside contract to support Test and Evaluation (TE). Through this contract, the SciComm team, managed by Robert Sheppe, has been providing engineers, architects, and environmental scientists to support Lt. Col. Adrian Upshur (Retired) and the TE staff.

In August 2001, SciComm competed for, and was awarded, one of the first MDA Support Services Program (BSSP) full-and-open contracts to support TE’s Facilities and Siting contract. This award further opened the way for SciComm for the Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) contracting at MDA. Under this contract, SciComm will be supporting TE with facility and siting support until 2006.

With some support from the SADBU Office and a lot of efforts of their own, SciComm has graduated from the 8(a) set-aside program, and now seek contracts /awards in full and open competition. Since receiving the first contract at MDA, SciComm has been awarded eight contracts totaling $22 million.◆

HBCU/MI
(cont’d from page 1)

Dr. Choudhury’s presentation described the history of MDA, its funding levels, the various topics funded over the years, and the list of HBCU/MIs that have been recipients of the MDA set-aside since it began in 1993. Dr. Choudhury encouraged the participants to look for the BAA announcement during the later part of this year, spread the word around to their campus colleagues, and to submit proposals. The presentation also gave information on other sources of funding in DoD, their Web sites, list of Science & Technology Agents, and contacts at MDA’s SADBU office.

MDA’s presentation was complementary to the HBCU/MI program presentations provided by the other military services and government agencies at the conference.

For further information, please contact Dr. Pravat K. Choudhury at pravat.choudhury@mda.osd.mil or call 703-697-8012/8017.◆

Recent New Contracts
(cont’d from page 1)

Paradigm Technologies, Inc. was awarded a delivery order, valued at $644,387.00, to provide financial services in support to the Deputy for Test and Assessment. This order has a twelve-month base period with two twelve-month options and ends on 31 October 2004.

On 01 November 2001, Mevatec Corporation was awarded a delivery order under their GSA Schedule, valued at $1,811,000.00, to provide program management and contract management support to Test and Evaluation. This order has an eleven-month base period and ends on 30 September 2002.

On 10 December 2001, Production Technology, Inc. was awarded a delivery order, valued at $1,811,905.74, to provide support to the MDA Producibility & Manufacturing Technology Directorate in the areas of management organization and business improvement as well as independent engineering analysis and engineering support. This order has a twelve-month base period with one six-month option and ends on 10 May 2003.

On 01 January 2002, Sparta, Inc. was awarded a delivery order, valued at $4,167,371.00, to provide services in support of Test and Evaluation planning, execution, data collection, analysis, and reporting. This order has an eleven and one-half-month base period with 4 twelve-month options and ends on 15 December 2006.◆

PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the MDA Acquisition Reporting Bulletin Board (BARBB) on the Internet
http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/barbb/barbb.htm
Legislation/Regulation Update

Federal Acquisition Regulation

Federal Acquisition Circular 2001-04

FAC 2001-04 was issued on 20 February 2002, and contained corrections to the following:

- Definitions for Classified Acquisitions (FAR Case 2000-404)
- Special Simplified Procedures for Purchases of Commercial Items in Excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (FAR Case 2002-002)
- Notification of Non-compliance with Cost Accounting Standards (FAR Case 2001-013)
- Executive Order 13204, Revocation of Executive Order on Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers Under Certain Contracts (FAR Case 2001-017)
- Caribbean Basin Country End Products (FAR Case 2000-306)
- Final Contract Voucher Submission (FAR Case 1999-026)


Proposed Rule 2001-030, Electronic Listing of Acquisition Vehicles

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council is proposing to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to require contracting activities to input information online for government-wide acquisition contracts, multi-agency contracts, General Services Administration (GSA) Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contracts, blanket purchase agreements (BPAs) under FSS contracts, and other procurement instruments intended for multiple agency use.

Interested parties should submit comments in writing on or before 16 April 2002 to be considered in the formulation of a final rule. Submit written comments to: General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVP), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4035, ATTN: Laurie Duarte, Washington, DC 20405, and electronic comments via the Internet to: farcase.2001–030@gsa.gov. Please submit comments only and cite FAR case 2001–030 in all correspondence related to this case.


The Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council have issued amendments to FAC 2001–01, FAR Case 2000–302, Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 published in the Federal Register at 66 FR 53492, 22 October 2001, to correct the language concerning the separate goal for service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns. Language was added in FAC 97–20 that service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns were to be included in the goal for veteran-owned small businesses.

This was based on a statutory change. A further statutory change established a goal for service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns that is separate from the goal for veteran-owned small business concerns. This statute was implemented in FAC 2001–01 but, inadvertently, some of the FAC 97–20 language intended for deletion did not appear in the published case.


Federal Acquisition Circular 2001-02

FAC 2001-02 was issued on 21 December 2001, and contained corrections to the following:

- Definitions of “Component” and “End Product” (FAR Case 2000-015)
- Energy Efficiency of Supplies and Services (FAR Case 1999-011)
- Prompt Payment and the Recovery of Overpayment (FAR Case 1999-023)

continued on page 8
LEGISLATION/REGULATION UPDATE
(cont’d from page 7)

- Javits-Wagner-O’Day Act Subcontract Preference under Service Contracts (FAR Case 1999-017)
- Discussion Requirements (FAR Case 1999-022)
- Definition of Subcontract in FAR Subpart 15.4 (FAR Case 2000-017)
- North American Industry Classification System (FAR Case 2000-604)
- Iceland—Newly Designated Country under Trade Agreements Act (FAR Case 2001-025)
- Contractor Personnel in the Procurement of Information Technology Services (FAR Case 2000-609)


Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement

Final Rules

Five (5) Final Rules were issued on 30 January 2002 and contained corrections to the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding - Switzerland (DFARS Case 2001-D019)
- Caribbean Basin Country End Products (DFARS Case 2000-D302)
- Tax Exemptions (Italy) (DFARS Case 2000-D027)

- Veterans Employment Emphasis (DFARS Case 1997-D314)
- Technical Amendments

Proposed Rule

One (1) Proposed Rule was issued on 30 January 2002 and contained corrections to the following:

- Enterprise Software Agreements (DFARS Case 2000-D023)
  - This proposed rule adds policy pertaining to the acquisition of commercial software and software maintenance in accordance with the DoD Enterprise Software Initiative. This initiative promotes the use of enterprise software agreements with contractors that allow DoD to obtain favorable terms and pricing for commercial software and related services.
  - Comments on the proposed rule should be submitted in writing on or before April 1, 2002, to be considered in the formation of the final rule. Respondents may submit comments directly on the World Wide Web at: http://emissary.acq.osd.mil/dar/dfars.nsf/pubcomm. As an alternative, respondents may e-mail comments to: dfars@acq.osd.mil. Please cite DFARS Case 2000-D023 in the subject line of e-mailed comments. Respondents that cannot submit comments using either of the above methods may submit comments to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Susan Schneider, OUSD (AT&L) DP (DAR), IMD 3C132, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-3062; facsimile (703) 602-0350. Please cite DFARS Case 2000-D023.
this program, you are encouraged to go to the following web site: http://www.onr.navy.mil/sci_tech/industrial/depscor.htm.

MURI

The Multidisciplinary Research Program of the University Research Initiative (MURI) awards are made in research topics specified by the participating defense agencies each year that the program is in existence. These topics change each year. The DoD expects to make awards addressing 19 specific research topics in areas of strategic importance to DoD, subject to the availability of appropriations. All awards are based on merit competition, and are typically for a base period of three years (funded incrementally or as options) with a possible two-year addition as an option period to bring the total award period to five-years. The funding level ranges, commensurate with the fields and breadth of research, from half a million to approximately a million dollars per year.

The submission date for the next fiscal year and the awards for this fiscal year for the MURI have not been announced. To check for updates and/or find out more about this program, you are encouraged to go to the following web site: http://www.onr.navy.mil/sci_tech/industrial/muri.htm.

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Small Business Database Update

The MDA Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU) Office maintains a database, which is regularly used as a source to match an organization’s capabilities with the technical requirements of MDA. For companies not currently listed in our database, we ask that you contact the SADBU Office and request a small business packet containing useful information about doing business with MDA and the latest contracting opportunities. This packet can be obtained by visiting the Web site at http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/sadbu.html or by contacting Stephen Moss, Director of the SADBU Office, at stephen.moss@mda.osd.mil or Twanda McNair at twanda.mcnaier@mda.osd.mil. Once your organization has reviewed the material, please submit a completed database form along with your capabilities packet.

The SADBU Office requests that all small businesses, which are already in the database, please notify us about any organizational or other changes, so that MDA will continue to maintain an updated and accurate profile of each organization’s capabilities. This will also ensure the timely delivery of the quarterly notification of issuance of The SADBU Update, our newsletter. If your business needs to update ANY information, please go to the MDA SADBU Internet home page at http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/bmdolink/html/sadbu.html to download a blank database form.

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SADBU Contact Information

Mr. Stephen M. Moss, Director
(703) 697-8015

Mr. Raymond Lambert, Deputy Director
(703) 697-8918

Dr. Pravat Choudhury
Small Business Development Specialist
(703) 697-8012

Mrs. Twanda McNair, Secretary
(703) 697-8017
fax: (703) 695-6582

Missile Defense Agency
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
7100 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-7100


McNeil Technologies, Inc.
6564 Loisdale Ct., Suite 800
Springfield, VA 22150
Web Site Highlight

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has initiated a new website, which is designed to aid in the reduction of the burden placed on an organization to comply with federal laws and regulations. The website can be accessed at http://www.BusinessLaw.gov.

The website consolidates and indexes links to information on 39 topics, ranging from licenses and permits to exporting and electronic commerce. The website also contains information specific to different states and territories, including hiring and selecting a location.

The MDA SADBU office will be holding their annual Small Business Day on 9 May 2002. Information on this event as well as on-line registration is available at www.mdasbday.com.

Other Useful Web Sites:

- **SCORE** — the Service Corps of Retired Executives — is a nonprofit organization, which provides small business counseling and training under a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). To access this site go to - http://www.score.org

- The SBA site with the State Tax Homepages: http://www.sba.gov/hotlist/statetaxhomepages.html


- The MDA home page: http://www.acq.osd.mil/bmdo/


- The MDA SBIR/STTR Program home page: http://www.winbmdo.com/


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**Internet News**

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- **April 23, 2002**
  - **Upper Marlboro SB Procurement Fair**
  - For more information go to: Web site: http://www.ustreas.gov/sba/osdbu/index.html

- **April 15-17, 2002**
  - **Joint National Integration Center Conference**
  - Colorado Springs, Colorado

- **May 6, 2002**
  - **Naval Surface Warfare Center - Dahlgren Division**
  - Dahlgren, VA
  - For more information go to: Web site: http://www.ncsievents.com/sched/promo/nswc_dahlgren_promo.html

- **May 9, 2002**
  - **Missile Defense Agency Small Business Day**
  - Arlington, VA
  - For more information please contact: Twanda McNair (703) 697-8017 or Kelly Young (703) 921-1659
  - Web site: http://www.mdasbday.com

- **August 19-22, 2002**
  - **5th Annual Space and Missile Defense Conference and Exhibition**
  - Huntsville, AL

**PLEASE NOTE:**

The NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Technology Expo has been rescheduled from May 23, 2002, to November 2002. A more specific date is still to be set.

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“... over the land of the free, and the home of the brave.”