



**AGREEMENT TO AMEND AND EXTEND
THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
AND
THE ASSOCIATION OF PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS**

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), in view of the continuing desire to collaborate, agree to amend and extend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the parties on February 13, 2006, as follows:

1. Under TERMS AND TERMINATION: the first paragraph second sentence is modified by striking the words "in two-year increments." The new sentence reads: "The MOU may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice and may be extended or modified by written mutual agreement."
2. The period of validity of the MOU is hereby extended for a period of five (5) years from the original date of expiration.
3. All other terms and conditions remained unchanged by this Agreement to Amend and Extend.

Signatory for the National Institute
of Standards and Technology,
Manufacturing Extension Partnership
Program:


Roger D. Kilmer, Director NIST MEP

2-5-08
Date

Signatory for the Association of
Procurement Technical Assistance
Centers


Terri Bennett, President APTAC

2/14/08
Date



MEP • MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY-
MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

And

THE ASSOCIATION OF PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS

PURPOSE

The Association of Government Marketing Assistance Specialists (APTAC) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program agree to enter this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of formally establishing collaborative efforts to support the U.S. manufacturing industrial base thereby more efficiently using U.S. tax dollars.

BACKGROUND

The APTAC is an incorporated organization comprised of an advisory board and 10 regional directors that support the more than 500 dedicated procurement professional members of the Procurement Technical Assistance Programs (PTAC). The Procurement Technical Assistance Program (ATAP) was authorized by Congress in 1985 in an effort to expand the number of businesses capable of participating in the Government Marketplace. Administered by the Department of Defense's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), the program provided matching funds through cooperative agreements with state and local governments and non-profit organizations for the establishment of PTACs to provide procurement assistance.

The APTAC mission is to represent the interests of its members and to promote procurement technical assistance to business owners interested in doing business with Federal, State and local agencies. The primary goal of the members is to increase competition of Government contracts and thereby expand the Government's industrial base. Additionally, the APTAC established and maintains a national forum to conduct training and to provide for the exchange of information and ideas among all operators of the Government marketing assistance programs and other related programs, for the purpose of inter-state and intra-state communication, program development and professional enhancement.

Created in 1988 by the congressional governing statute, Title 15 CFR 290, MEP's sole purpose is to provide small and medium sized manufacturers with the help they need to succeed by improving their productivity, economic competitiveness and technological capabilities. MEP is a results-based network of locally operated, staffed and controlled non-profit and university based organizations leveraging federal, state and local, and private sector resources. This partnership among federal government, state and local governments and the private sector has manufacturing extension offices providing services in every state across the country and in Puerto Rico. The almost 350 locations across the country are linked together through the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Both the PTAC and the MEP programs are either totally or partially federally funded to provide manufacturers with information and/or the resources needed to be successful, this MOU will outline the key collaborative focus areas of each program. It behooves the MEP and APTAC to form a partnership whereby technical/procurement assistance can be provided to businesses and industry. With assistance from MEP and APTAC working together small businesses can play a greater role in strengthening the U.S. economy.

It is recognized and understood that both parties shall rely on their respective resource for any collaborative efforts unless otherwise agreed to within an addendum for a specific project.

COLLABORATION OBJECTIVES

Both organizations have an interest in strategically integrating support for immediate and ongoing needs within areas authorized and if funds are available. The APTAC and MEP will promote the joint efforts established under this MOU which will be based on communication as the foundation of the two networks working together to create a seamless working relationship between the two organizations. The areas of initial collaboration interest include, but are not limited to:

APTAC Opportunities to:

1. Provide training and consulting to business and industries concerning how to do business with the Federal Government. Assistance will include, but not be limited to: Government marketing, bid and proposal preparation, Packaging, Government codes, pre-award surveys, post-award administration, sub-contracting, socioeconomic programs, Federal Acquisition Regulations, and Electronic Commerce. In the majority of the cases, this service is offered at no cost to the client.
2. Acquire, preserve and disseminate data and other information regarding Government procurement policies and practices.
3. Provide introductory education/awareness training on DOD policy in regards to DOD Radio Frequency Identification initiative.
4. Refer qualified manufacturing sector business and industrial customers to MEP for more in-depth industry-related technical assistance that falls outside the scope of the PTAC government contracting mission.
5. Promote and co-sponsor joint complementary training events beneficial to clients and mutually respective to both programs.

MEP Opportunities to:

1. Establish direct and consistent relationships with PTAC leadership at the association and federal program administrative level as well as at the local field office level designating an MEP point of contact at each MEP Center.
2. Encourage MEP and PTAC informational sessions in order to learn more about how the PTACs assist with government procurement issues/assistance such as acquiring, preserving and disseminating data and other information regarding Government procurement policies and practices to promote reciprocal referral activity.
3. Document and share complimentary assistance best practices such as sharing facilities for group events, employing webinars for co-virtual events, establishing joint newsletters, and sharing websites to facilitate dissemination of new manufacturing funding initiatives and implementation services available to manufacturers.
4. Develop clear objectives, benchmarks and goals to measure success of collaboration between MEP and PTAC networks.
5. Develop closed loop referral methods to facilitate a seamless service environment for clients between the organizations, particularly in regards to technology adaptations such as Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).

TERMS AND TERMINATION

This MOU will take effect on the date of execution and will remain in effect for two years, will be reviewed annually, and may be renewed by mutual agreement. The MOU may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice and may be extended in two-year increments or modified by written mutual agreement.

The parties agree that this MOU is non-exclusive and nothing contained herein prevents either party from entering into similar agreements with any third party. If any terms of this MOU are inconsistent with existing authorities or directives of either of the Agencies entering into this MOU, those portions of this

MOU that are determined to be inconsistent shall be invalid; the remaining terms and conditions shall remain in full force and effect.

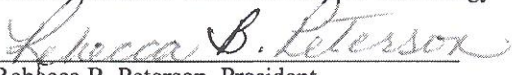
Nothing herein shall be construed to create any joint venture or similar relationship or to subject the parties to any implied duties or obligations respecting the conduct of their affairs that are not expressly stated herein. Neither party shall have any right or authority to assume or create obligation or responsibility, either expressed or implied, on behalf of or in the name of the other party, or to bind the other party in any matter whatsoever. Neither party shall be deemed to be an agent or principal of the other.

The signatories of this MOU represent that they have the authority to make such commitments of behalf of their respective organizations.

FOR THE PARTIES:


Roger D. Kilmer, Director
Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program
National Institute for Standards and Technology

2/13/06
Date


Rebecca B. Peterson, President
Association for Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

Feb 13, 2006
Date