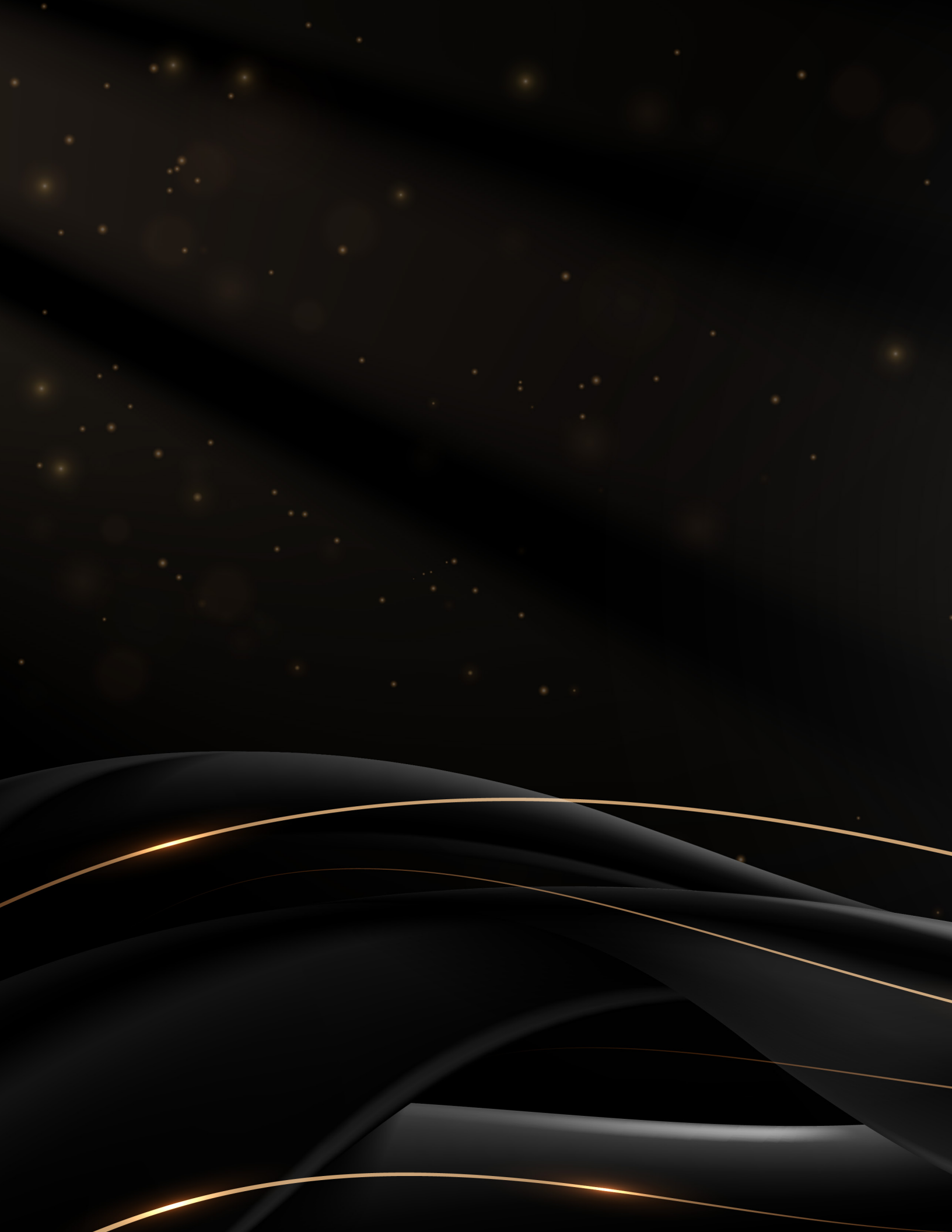


DEPARTMENT OF WAR
MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM

NUNN-PERRY AWARDS LUNCHEON

FY2024 & FY2025





MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM
NUNN-PERRY AWARDS

FY2024 & FY2025

MASTER OF CEREMONY

Mr. Kareem Sykes

Director, Industry & Engagement - Project Spectrum
Eccalon

ORDER OF EVENTS

CALL TO ORDER & OPENING REMARKS

LUNCH

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

PRESENTATION OF NUNN-PERRY AWARDS

CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



JAMES R. MISMASH

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of War for Industrial Base Growth
Director, Office of Small Business Programs*

On behalf of the Department of War (DoW) Office of Industrial Base Growth, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2026 Nunn-Perry Awards ceremony.

This event highlights the tangible outcomes of sustained partnership across the defense industrial base. The mentor-protégé teams recognized today demonstrate how targeted collaboration strengthens capability, increases capacity, and delivers measurable impact in support of national defense priorities.

Strengthening and scaling the defense industrial base depends on programs like the DoW Mentor-Protégé Program, which prepare the industrial base and growing businesses to meet evolving mission requirements.

The teams recognized here reflect effective execution. Their work contributes not only to individual program success, but to the broader objective of a more responsive and resilient industrial base.

I want to thank all mentors and protégés for the roles you play in this effort. Your commitment and performance are strengthening the foundation on which our defense capabilities depend.

Congratulations to this year's Nunn-Perry Award recipients. Your achievements set the standard for partnership and performance across the program.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment.

Congratulations!



KASEY DIAZ

*Deputy Director, Office of Industrial Base Growth
Director, Small Business Programs and Operations*

Thank you for joining us at the 2026 Department of War (DoW) Nunn-Perry Awards ceremony. These awards honor the legacy of Senator Sam Nunn and former Secretary of Defense William Perry, both champions of the DoW Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP) and its mission to strengthen small business participation in our defense industrial base.

This year's theme, Bridging Opportunities: Scaling Innovation for National Defense, reflects the Department's strategic priority to enhance industrial base resilience, expand competition, and reduce reliance on foreign and sole-source suppliers. Small businesses continue to be indispensable contributors to our national defense, delivering the innovation, speed, and specialized capabilities required to support our warfighters.

The MPP remains one of DoW's most effective tools for bringing small businesses into the defense ecosystem. Through mentorship, technical assistance, and meaningful collaboration, we're helping a new generation of suppliers grow and thrive.

Congratulations to all the Nunn-Perry Award nominees and winners. Your outstanding performance reflects excellence, resilience, and a deep commitment to the Department's mission. We thank you for your contributions to an enduring legacy of innovation and partnership.

HISTORY

The Nunn-Perry Award recognizes outstanding performance in the Department of War Mentor-Protégé Program (MPP), highlighting partnerships that strengthen the defense industrial base through capability development and supplier growth. The award is named for former Senator Sam Nunn and former Secretary of Defense William Perry, whose collaboration advanced policies that expanded small business participation and supported the establishment of the Mentor-Protégé Program. The first Nunn-Perry Award was presented in 1995, marking early recognition of excellence within the program.

The Mentor-Protégé Program began as a pilot initiative in November 1990, created to help prime contractors develop the capabilities of small businesses and expand the pool of qualified suppliers supporting the Department. Through structured partnerships, the program provides technical, managerial, and business development assistance to emerging firms, helping address critical gaps in the industrial base. Over time, it has become a key tool for strengthening supply chains and increasing capacity in priority sectors. The program was codified and made permanent in the fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Today, the Nunn-Perry Award reflects the program's enduring impact. Recipients are recognized for achieving meaningful protégé growth, advancing technical capabilities, and delivering results that support national defense priorities.

NUNN-PERRY AWARD CRITERIA

This year's Nunn-Perry Award winners were selected from reimbursable and credit agreements sponsored by U.S. Military Service Components and other Defense Agencies. Criteria to receive a Nunn-Perry award for fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 include:

- Protégé Growth
- Protégé Development
- Value of Technical Assistance
- Program Management
- Utilization of Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Serving Institutions (HBCUs/MSIs), APEX Accelerators, or Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)

Awardees have excelled in their program performance by fulfilling the following criteria:

IMPACT OF PROTÉGÉ'S DEVELOPMENT

Includes technical capabilities realized, certifications received, business infrastructure gained, and new business and/or subcontracting opportunities realized. Favorable consideration is given to an increase in DoW prime and/or subcontracts as well as identifications of a beneficial impact upon the DoW mission requirements.

QUALITY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Includes the appropriateness, quality, breadth and depth of technical assistance provided to the protégé firm. Favorable consideration is given to the relevance of the technical assistance to the DoW mission requirements and the effective utilization of HBCU/MSIs, APEX Accelerators, and SBDCs. The relationship between assistance provided and the relevance to the DoW requirements are also considered.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

Provides quantitative data to support the cost of the agreement to the DoW versus its beneficial value to the U.S. economy. This includes the impact of agreements upon the protégé employee base, gross revenues and participation in DoW contracts at either the prime or subcontracting level. Positive impact upon the mentor's Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) subcontracting performance is favorably considered.

2024 NUNN-PERRY AWARD WINNERS



AGENCY: Department of the Navy

MENTOR: Q.E.D. Systems (QED)

PROTÉGÉ: Turner Strategic Technologies Fab & Machine (TST)

MPA PARTNER: Morehouse Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (MIEC)

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

TST is a custom fabrication and machining company based in Norfolk, Va. This Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) serves defense, maritime, and commercial industries in the form of structural fabrication, machining, weldments, and assemblies for submarines and aircraft carriers.

Prior to the mentorship with Q.E.D. Systems (QED), TST primarily served commercial clients. Subcontracting revenue for the company was \$3.8 million. With the introduction of public sector clients, including the U.S. Department of the Navy, TST's subcontracting revenue now exceeds \$5.9 million.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

The agreement between QED and TST began in June 2022. Since then, TST has received support from QED in building human resources policies, developing cost estimates, expanding recruitment and onboarding procedures, bolstering safety procedures to meet Department of War (DoW) standards, and developing an annual personnel performance process. QED also assisted TST with facility security planning, including undertaking the requirements to obtain facility security clearance.

Morehouse College supported the relationship by providing software training for computer-aided design, as well as Lean Bronze Belt process improvement training. In addition, several team members became qualified in tungsten inert gas and metal inert gas welding procedures.

Overall, the TST welding program has expanded under this mentorship, and now meets the requirements for DoW contracts, as well as Liebherr Mining's Medium Fab Quality Audit.

THE IMPACT AND ROI

As reported by QED, "The growing relationship between our two companies and the commitment to achieve maximum results from this agreement is significant and noteworthy."

- TST's full-time workforce grew from 40 to 63 employees—an increase of 57.5%.
- TST was awarded 95 prime contracts supporting the Navy.
- TST increased its subcontracting revenue by 55% over the course of this mentorship.
- TST completed 90 subcontracts, including support of COLUMBIA-class ballistic missile submarines, in tandem with VIRGINIA-class attack submarines.



AGENCY: Department of the Air Force

MENTOR: Global Resource Solutions Inc. (GRS)

PROTÉGÉ: MEC Technologies (MEC Tech)

MPA PARTNER: Southern University at Shreveport

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

MEC Technologies (MEC Tech) has been serving clients since 2006, with a specialization in call center and administrative support. Based in North Dakota, MEC Tech is the first tribally owned 8(a) firm to be nominated for this award. MEC Tech qualifies as a small, disadvantaged business, and participates in the Indian Incentive Program through the DoW.

MEC Tech has provided subcontracting services to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Defense Health Agency (DHA), along with more local initiatives with Wisconsin Physician Services and the North Dakota Army National Guard.

Before the mentorship, MEC Tech had never won a prime contract. As a result of the relationships built through this agreement, MEC Tech now has a prime contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) valued at more than \$5 million.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

The agreement between GRS and MEC Tech began in June 2023. GRS designated a dedicated director-level resource to work with MEC Tech on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. The mentorship included training and support from subject matter experts on topics including growth strategies, pricing, and contract navigation.

This mentor-protégé relationship was supported by Southern University, through which, MEC Tech received technical training in Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR), accounting, proposal development, and pricing development, as well as big data analytics (complete with artificial intelligence tools and supports).

THE IMPACT AND ROI

As reported by GRS, “The collaboration and mentorship provided throughout this program have not only empowered the protégé but have also contributed to strengthening the overall mission readiness of the Air Force.”

- MEC Tech has increased its full-time employees from 20 to 73 people.
- MEC Tech won its first prime contract: an administrative support engagement with the Iowa State National Resources Conservation Service, part of USDA.
- MEC Tech increased its annual revenue by more than 100% in one year, post Mentor-Protégé agreement.



AGENCY: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

MENTOR: Parsons Government Services Inc.

PROTÉGÉ: Sphinx

MPA PARTNER: Alabama State University (ASU)

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

Sphinx is a cyber counterintelligence (CI) and cybersecurity company, founded in 2018 by veterans with expertise in special operations, intelligence, and cyber warfare. Based in Fredericksburg, Va., the company is a certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB). Sphinx professionals are subject matter experts in the cybersecurity field, and focus on detecting vulnerabilities and protecting assets within the U.S. government as well as the commercial space.

Before this mentorship began, Sphinx had already established itself as an important part of the U.S. cybersecurity mission; however, the company was focused mainly on subcontracting opportunities. Since the start of the mentorship, Sphinx has won its first sole source prime contract, valued at more than \$1.4 million.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

The agreement between Parsons and Sphinx began in August 2023. Parsons provided training and knowledge support to assist Sphinx in building its business infrastructure, technology-based investments, contract pricing, and rate development. Policies and procedures were refined, and priorities were realigned to improve opportunities for growth. Team members participated in Shipley Business Development Boot Camp, as well as Qualifying to Win and Project Management Professional Exam preparation courses.

Support from ASU included consultations on human resources, recruiting, and sourcing qualified employees with appropriate security clearances. ASU assisted Sphinx in establishing competitive salary ratings to attract the best possible people for the job. ASU also supported Sphinx in implementing automatic data processing services for payroll.

THE IMPACT AND ROI

As reported by Parsons, “Within weeks of Sphinx personnel being assigned to a joint inter-agency task force, they identified attempts to exploit United States Government (USG) equities, allowing USG leadership to determine the appropriate course of action and response.”

- Sphinx increased its full-time employees from 22 to 42, a 90.9% increase.
- Sphinx won its first sole source prime contract, worth more than \$1.4 million.
- Sphinx increased the value of its preexisting subcontracts from \$5.2 million to \$8.9 million.



AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency

MENTOR: Northrop Grumman Space Systems

PROTÉGÉ: Corvid Technologies

MPA PARTNER: North Carolina Agricultural and
Technical State University (NC A&T)

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

Corvid Technologies is an engineering firm that specializes in high-fidelity computational modeling and simulation, as well as cybersecurity, prototyping, and manufacturing. Based in Alexandria, Va., the company focuses on end-to-end solutions to engineering challenges. With more than 20 years of experience, Corvid's clients span both the public and private sectors. The company offers a wide range of services, including advanced warhead design, structural mechanics, fluid dynamics, shock physics, biomechanics, and launch services.

Before the mentorship with Northrop Grumman, Corvid's prime contract revenue was \$11.5 million. It has since increased to \$58.5 million. In addition, their subcontracting revenue has grown from \$73.6 million to more than \$492 million.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

The agreement between Northrop Grumman and Corvid began in December 2021. Northrop Grumman created a team to support Corvid, including experts in project management, quality and mission assurance, manufacturing, and global supply chain. The team worked closely with Corvid to refine and strengthen its production processes and quality assurance measures. Northrop Grumman also shared proprietary engineering knowledge with its protégé, which expanded Corvid's ability to deliver high value products within the defense industry.

Support from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T) offered Corvid the opportunity to train employees in Lean Six Sigma concepts. Four of Corvid's employees are now certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belts, and one employee is a Six Sigma Black Belt. The methodologies of Six Sigma have been incorporated into company culture.

THE IMPACT AND ROI

As reported by Northrop Grumman, "This collaboration means that Northrop Grumman and the DoW can consistently depend on Corvid to supply precisely manufactured components, effectively reducing vulnerabilities tied to supply chain constraints and ensuring a reliable source of critical high-quality standards crucial to defense initiatives."

- Corvid's DoW prime contracts increased from \$11.5 million to \$83.9 million with a total value increase of \$72.4 million, within one year of their Mentor-Protégé agreement.
- Corvid's DoW subcontracts grew from \$1.3 million to \$211.8 million, within one year of their Mentor-Protégé agreement.
- Full-time employees at Corvid increased from 216 to 437 people.



AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency

MENTOR: Tec-Masters Inc. (TMI)

PROTÉGÉ: Engenix Inc.

MPA PARTNER: The Women's Business Center (WBC) of the Catalyst

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

Engenix is a technology services company that provides capabilities to both public and private sector clients. Based in Huntsville, Al., the company has a particular specialty in maintenance training for Army Aviation. Founded in 2018, Engenix is a certified Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB). The company offers additional capabilities including tailored technical training, adaptive defense solutions, and cutting-edge data analytics and AI/machine learning.

At the start of the Mentor-Protégé agreement (MPA), Engenix determined that it would focus exclusively on expanding subcontractor opportunities. At that time, the company had only one subcontract. By August 2025, Engenix increased its DoW subcontracts, totaling more than \$2.6 million in value.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

The MPA between mentor and protégé began in July 2023. TMI conducted extensive business development training for Engenix, emphasizing a structured approach to growth. The training included opportunity identification, pipeline development, revenue tracking, bid/no bid decision-making, and pricing.

Partnering with the WBC allowed Engenix access to subject matter experts, with an emphasis on business operations, advanced Agile, and quality management training. The experts were directly involved in connecting Engenix with major prime contractors, which may allow Engenix to compete as a prime contractor in the future.

THE IMPACT AND ROI

As reported by TMI, “Developing Engenix into a cost-effective and highly capable subcontractor has significantly strengthened the national defense industrial base. This growth directly benefits DoW and the U.S. Army by providing expert professional services in areas such as training, training analysis, training development, and logistics.”

- The number of full-time employees at Engenix increased by 43% from seven to ten.
- Engenix increased its subcontracts from one to seven.
- Engenix increased its subcontract value from \$203,734 to \$8 million—an increase of \$3.5 million by the end of September 2025.

2025 NUNN-PERRY AWARD WINNERS



AGENCY: Department of the Air Force

MENTOR: IBM Corporation

PROTÉGÉ: Platinum Technologies

MPA PARTNER: Morgan State University

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

Platinum Technologies' mission emphasizes next-generation innovation in the fields of robotic process automation, artificial intelligence, cyber solutions, and cloud engineering techniques. Founded in 2020, the company is headquartered in Falls Church, Va., and was established with the goal of transforming how government uses data and technology.

At the start of its agreement with IBM, Platinum had an annual revenue of \$860,634. Since it became an IBM protégé, Platinum's revenue has increased to more than \$12 million per year.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

The agreement between mentor and protégé began in March 2022. Since that time, the Platinum team has received formal instruction in agile delivery and secure system engineering, along with access to IBM's commercial cloud platforms and proprietary datasets to support technology development and model validation.

IBM and MPA partner Morgan State University assisted Platinum in enhancing its internal controls, contract management process, and operational and organizational capabilities. The mentorship also supported Platinum in growing its cybersecurity practice, including offensive and defensive operations.

Throughout their relationship, IBM enabled Platinum to access advanced technologies, proven methodologies, and institutional expertise, strengthening operational scalability, improving cost efficiency, and reinforcing the defense industrial base.

THE IMPACT AND ROI

Collaboration between protégé and mentor produced a new scalable capability for the defense industrial base: VANGUARD, a cloud-agnostic compliance automation platform currently assessed at Technology Readiness Level 4. The VANGUARD solution is designed to reduce DoW costs, increase speed, and enable reuse across programs, creating an ROI with a lasting impact for the nation and the warfighter.

In addition, as a direct result of IBM's mentorship, Platinum experienced exceptional growth. For instance:

- Platinum's annual revenue increased by more than 1300% over the course of the partnership.
- The number of full-time employees at Platinum increased from five to 57.



AGENCY: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

MENTOR: Axiologic Solutions

PROTÉGÉ: UpSlope Advisors

MPA PARTNER: Morehouse College

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

UpSlope Advisors, Inc. is a professional services firm that provides mission-driven advisory services and innovative solutions to federal clients, including the DoW and civilian agencies. The company is based in Denver, Colo., with additional offices in Tysons Corner, Va., and St. Louis, Mo. Founded in 2016, this emerging small business delivers geospatial analytics, advanced analytics, and data/system engineering capabilities to defense, civilian, and state government customers.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

Axiologic Solutions and UpSlope Advisors partnered under the DoW Mentor-Protégé Program in January 2025. Since then, Axiologic has provided its protégé with hands-on developmental assistance across business infrastructure, program management, compliance, technology modernization, and capture support.

Under Axiologic's mentorship, UpSlope integrated a structured "business tempo," complete with rigorous financial and contract controls. UpSlope also improved cost visibility, labor pricing accuracy, and overall execution discipline across all core functions.

THE IMPACT AND ROI

With support from Axiologic and Morehouse College, UpSlope has successfully achieved International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001, 20000, and 27001 certifications, passing all Stage 2 audits with no findings, thereby strengthening its delivery discipline, audit readiness, and cybersecurity.

The partnership also provided UpSlope with growth opportunities, including:

- A 20% increase in pipeline value.
- Expanded market access via GSA OASIS+ and MDA SHIELD.
- 100% compliance training.
- 40% higher web engagement.



AGENCY: Defense Threat Reduction Agency

MENTOR: ARServices, Limited

PROTÉGÉ: Shield Analysis Technology

MPA PARTNER: Morehouse Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (MIEC)

THE PROTÉGÉ COMPANY

Shield Analysis' mission is to develop and deliver effective public health solutions. Founded in 2007, this veteran-owned company holds extensive science, management, communications, and legislative expertise. Headquartered in Manassas, Va., Shield Analysis brings a cross-disciplinary approach to support research, public health, STEM, and defense clients.

THE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIP

ARServices and Shield Analysis hold the first Mentor-Protégé Agreement (MPA) approved by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), accepted in April 2023. Although Shield had been working as a subcontractor to ARServices before the MPA, the mentorship brought forth a new level of collaboration.

The primary mission of this MPA was to build Shield's prime contractor capability. To further this mission, ARServices provided access to, and support from, its Chief Financial Officer and Human Resources leadership, as well as recommendations and support for Shield accounting systems, and best practices in hiring and on-boarding. In addition, ARServices and MIEC provided one-on-one coaching of Shield employees in their pursuit of Project Management Professional (PMP) status.

THE IMPACT AND ROI

The impact to the nation, warfighter, and to DTRA in particular, is ongoing. ARServices guided Shield in the provision of impactful Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) support to the DTRA Research & Development Directorate's Chemical Biological Technologies Department (RD-CB), resulting in successful innovation and the establishment of Shield as a trusted, ongoing partner to DTRA. In fact, Shield employees have received eight written notes from DTRA government leaders, praising their work.

In addition, Shield Analysis achieved the following:

- Two prime contracts with DTRA.
- Three employees with PMP credentials.
- Multiple ISO certifications and recertifications.
- Completion of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) 2.0.



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