



ACQUISITION
AND SUSTAINMENT

DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3015 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3015

AUG 21 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES
PRESIDENT, DEFENSE ACQUISITION UNIVERSITY
DIRECTOR, HUMAN CAPITAL INITIATIVES
COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVES

SUBJECT: Engaging with Industry to Achieve Small Business Prime Contracting Goals

Small businesses are essential to driving our Nation's economy, advancing innovation, and strengthening our national defense. They play a vital role in entrepreneurship, job creation, economic growth, and, ultimately, our Nation's global competitiveness. Small businesses in all socio-economic categories play an important role in developing, delivering, and sustaining the critical capabilities upon which our military depends. By reducing barriers and creating more opportunities for small businesses, we can expand our Warfighter advantage, strengthen our supply chains, and increase competition in our marketplace. Doing so is a key part of building enduring advantages for our Warfighters. It includes meeting the Department of Defense's Small Disadvantaged Business goal. Small businesses in all socio-economic categories play an important role in developing, delivering, and sustaining the critical capabilities upon which our military depends.

We need to continue to provide opportunities for these small businesses, including those in underserved communities, by cultivating the rich, untapped talent within the businesses and providing opportunities for their meaningful participation in the defense industrial base. You, our Acquisition Workforce, have an important role in ensuring that small businesses are given the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in Defense contracts and in improving meaningful engagements with small businesses, particularly with businesses that help maintain our technological advantage and develop advanced capabilities. Engagement with small businesses is vital for the Department to meet its small business goals. These engagements are the responsibility of every leader in your organization who manages a budget and allocates funds that will go on a contract.

I request that you engage and work collaboratively with our small business industry partners and work closely with your small business directors to identify opportunities to maximize efforts toward achieving the Department's small business goals.

Thank you in advance for your hard work and commitment towards this effort. My point of contact is Mr. Farooq A. Mitha, Director, Office of Small Business Programs, at farooq.a.mitha.civ@mail.mil.

Radha Iyengar Plumb