

AIR FORCE MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM

The Air Force Mentor-Protégé Program creates long-term business relationships between mentor and protégé firms by providing incentives to major DoD contractors who are performing under at least one active and approved subcontracting plan. These incentives assist protégé firms in enhancing their capabilities to satisfy the DoD and other contract or subcontract requirements. The Air Force Mentor-Protégé Program increases the overall participation of protégé firms as subcontractors and suppliers for DoD contracts, federal agency contracts, and commercial contracts.

The mission of the Air Force is to create and deliver strategies that bring innovative, agile, and efficient Small Business solutions to the Air Force to fly, fight and win in AIR, SPACE, and CYBERSPACE. The Air Force focuses on Mentor-Protégé agreements that have a strong technical component on innovative state of the art technology transfer in those domains.

Mentor Eligibility:

- Prime contractor with at least one active subcontracting plan negotiated under FAR Subpart 19.7 or under DoD Comprehensive Subcontracting Test Program
- Eligible for award of Federal contracts
- Large business or a graduated 8(a) firm

Protégé Eligibility:

- SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, SDVOSB or entity employing the severely disabled
- Eligible for award of Federal contracts
- SB IAW SBA size standards for NAICS to be provided to mentor

Air Force's Focus Areas:

- Nuclear Enterprise
- Partnering with Joint Coalition Teams
- Developing and Caring for our Airmen and Families
- Modernizing Air and Space Inventories, Organization, and Training
- Acquisition Excellence

Air Force's Programs:

- Cyberspace Operations
- Energy Efficiency/Conversion
- Irregular Warfare Capabilities
- Surveillance and Reconnaissance
- Unmanned Aerial Systems
- Nuclear Weapons Enterprise

Mentor Benefits:

- Developmental assistance and technology transferred to Protégé while building a long-term relationship and gaining a qualified supplier
- This relationship could potentially help the Mentor meet or exceed their Small Business Goals
- Reimbursement for developmental assistance costs through
 - A separately priced contract line item on a DoD contract; or
 - A separate contract; or
 - Credit toward Small Disadvantage Business subcontracting goals for developmental assistance costs that are not reimbursed

Protégé Benefits:

- Also building a long-term relationship with a major Air Force contractor while possibly becoming the preferred supplier to the mentor
- Transfer of business and technology capabilities
- Enhancing their competitiveness while expanding and diversifying their customer base

For more information, go to:

<http://www.airforcesmallbiz.org> – Select from the Support Programs menu tab

http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/mentor_protege/ - how to participate, templates, regulations, etc.