



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator – February 2026

by James F. Gerraughty
SAP&DC APEX Accelerator Program Manager



I'm still digging out parts of my yard from the big storm the last week in January. In our area, we got between 14'-18" of snow, followed with a cold snap. I am happy to say that I can warm up with a newsletter to showcase all the cool (pun intended) things going on at the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator!

Just as a reminder, we had an issue with our web domain (the "sapdc.org" part after the @ sign) in mid-October 2025. We have made the switch to a new domain and thus had to update web pages and emails:

- Main page: <https://www.sapdc.net>
- The APEX's page: <https://sapdc.net/government-contracting/>
- James' email – jgerraughty@sapdc.net
- Gloria's email – brooks@sapdc.net
- Carrie's email – cfisher@sapdc.net

Our partners' pages at JARI, North Central, and Northern Tier APEXes are still the same, as are our Neoserra customer-facing pages. Again, we do apologize for this inconvenience.

Please review our training opportunities that are coming up in February 2026 (and beyond) for our APEX Accelerator and PREP Partners. We have:

- A webinar with the Pennsylvania Cybersecurity Resource Center on 12 FEB 2026, discussing the impacts of cybersecurity on government contracting and CMMC, among other topics. Free to attend, but you must register.
- A CMMC presentation with Core Business Solutions on navigation of CMMC fundamentals and certification preparation on 19 MAR 2026. Free to attend, but you must register.
- A live presentation on 25 MAR 2026 on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government contracting and best practices for practical use.
- A Project Spectrum (IT/Cybersecurity partner with our funding agency) cybersecurity webinar on 11 JUN 2026. Details will be forthcoming, so keep checking our event page.

You can review and register for upcoming events on our eCenter page, <https://sancnt.ecenterdirect.com/> Stop back often, as the training events do pop up there pretty frequently!

If you have ideas for topics, or would like to learn more about a government contracting-related topic, please drop us a line at (814) 949-6500 or at apex@sapdc.net. We'd love to hear from you!

DOE seeks batteries with four times the juice

By Lauren C. Williams, Business Editor, Defense One

Six teams will get money to build manufacturable prototypes in two years.

If lithium-ion batteries are “miraculous,” as one science writer called them, the Energy Department is looking to fund a quadruple miracle.

The department’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy office is giving six teams up to \$15 million to produce prototypes of manufacturable next-generation energy storage within two years.

“We want to develop a system, a battery system or an energy system, that has four times the energy density of lithium ion batteries that we have today,” said James Seaba, program director at Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, or ARPA-E.

If successful, the technology could enable military drones, robots, and aircraft of far greater capability and use.

Read more at: <https://www.defenseone.com/technology/2026/01/doe-seeks-batteries-four-times-juice/410870/>

Got an idea for reforming defense acquisition? The Pentagon’s all ears.

By Jennifer Hlad, Managing Editor, Defense One

HONOLULU—As the Defense Department works to overhaul its antiquated and clunky acquisition system, it wants to hear from you.

“Bring us your most disruptive, most unconstrained ideas,” Mike Cadenazzi, assistant defense secretary for industrial base policy, said during a keynote speech at the Honolulu Defense Forum last week. “We need radically different outcomes in the defense industrial base. So we need radically different ideas on how to get there.”

Lt. Gen. James Glynn, commander of Marine Forces Pacific, offered one: Printing munitions on the battlefield.

Read more at: <https://www.defenseone.com/business/2026/01/got-idea-reforming-defense-acquisition-pentagons-all-ears/410832/>

About US

The Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC is an economic development entity that bridges the gap between supplier and buyer in the government marketplace. The APEX Accelerator stands ready to support businesses across 18 counties in the central PA Alleghenies region in the pursuit to secure contracts with local, state and/or federal government agencies nationwide.



Due to the generous support of our Commonwealth and Federal funding partners, services provided by the APEX Accelerator are free of charge.

Whether you are an experienced contractor or new to the government marketplace, the APEX Accelerator will provide one-on-one counseling utilizing all of the program resources necessary to increase your share of contract awards. We will also coordinate assistance, if needed, with our PA PREP partners.

Contact us today at the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator at SAP&DC to get started!

Email: apex@sapdc.net

Phone: (814) 949-6500

Web: APEXAccelerator@SAP&DC

SAP&DC is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SAP&DC | 814-949-6528 | jgerraughty@sapdc.net | <http://www.sapdc.net>
3 Sheraton Drive
Altoona, PA 16601



SAP&DC | 3 Sheraton Drive | Altoona, PA 16601 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!