



Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator – January 2026

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



Happy New Year! In some ways, I'm a bit glad that 2025 is in our rearview mirror. I didn't have much to report in November, due to exigent

conditions, and December was a scramble to play catch up and our 6th annual Tri State Matchmaker was right at the beginning of Dec 2025. At least you got a cool Success Stories newsletter for the APEX!

Now with things moving, and this being our last quarter of our current program year, we have some updates. A few items for your reading pleasure!

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 live presentation on 25 MAR 2026 on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in government contracting and best practices for practical use.

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!

By Alexandra Kelley, Staff Correspondent, Nextgov/FCW

The hearing will feature staff from several scientific agencies to evaluate the law's progress and future.

The House Science, Space and Technology Committee is planning to hold a hearing on Thursday, Jan. 22 to discuss the progress the National Quantum Initiative Act has made since it was signed into law by President Donald Trump in 2018, according to three sources with knowledge of the plans.

House lawmakers are looking to hear from staff at NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Energy Department and the National Institute of Standards and Technology on the NQI and its role in future federal quantum information technology research and development work.

Read more at: <https://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2026/01/house-science-committee-host-hearing-national-quantum-initiative-act/410708/>

House explores grid cybersecurity boosts amid growing threats

By Chris Teale, Managing Editor, Route Fifty

Several bills would reauthorize programs designed to protect energy infrastructure from nation-states and other threats while helping publicly owned utilities defend themselves and share information.

Several bills before Congress would reauthorize or bolster various programs designed to strengthen the nation's electric grid against cyber threats and help cash-strapped public utilities bolster their defenses.

A subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee considered various pieces of legislation at a hearing this week, including one to reauthorize the Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity Program, known as RMUC, and another that would require state energy offices to include more data on vulnerabilities in their state energy security plans.

Read more at: <https://www.route-fifty.com/cybersecurity/2026/01/house-explores-grid-cybersecurity-boosts-amid-growing-threats/410672/>

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!

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