APEX LINK

Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerators – Connecting Buyers & Suppliers

Progress Through Regional Cooperation In The Alleghenies

State of the Southern Alleghenies APEX Accelerator – October 2026

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



Happy New Federal Fiscal Year! Things are moving along quickly at the federal and state w/r/t government contracting, and we're keeping right along with them.

Last month, I mentioned the pause on CMMC Lvl 2 3rd party certification, with a resumption tentatively scheduled for 13 SEP 2026. On 3 SEP 2026, it was locked in with binding regulation that codifies the suspension for the foreseeable future (article is in this month's newsletter). Considering this, it is imperative as a business to understand that:

- Cybersecurity is an important thing for your business, and that CMMC is a checklist/procedure review,
- Review all your options and contract language. Level 2 could be a market differentiator for your company, and
- Prime contractors can require this when looking for subcontractors. We have been encountering that here at the APEX.

Any questions about cybersecurity, or any other government contracting issues? Don't hesitate to reach out.

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

- 15 OCT 2026, 2 PM EDT – What Ongoing Cybersecurity Compliance Looks Like – More info and registration here: https://sancnt.ecenterdirect.com/events/5599
- 22 OCT 2026, 2 PM EDT - ISO 9001 & ISO 14001:2026 Revisions are Here: What to Know and Do Next – More info and registration here: https://sancnt.ecenterdirect.com/events/5604
- 10 NOV 2026, 1-3 PM EST - Air Force Materiel Command Trending & Current Landscape Webinar – More info and registration here: https://sancnt.ecenterdirect.com/events/5605
- 1 & 2 DEC 2026**:** The 7th Annual Tri State APEX Accelerator Mega Matchmaker on 1-2 DEC 2026. More info and registration here: https://www.tri-state-apex-mega-matchmaker.com/

Please 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!

CMMC's Phase 2 suspension locked in with binding regulation

By Nick Wakeman, Editor-IN-Chief, Washington Technology

A new class deviation moves the pause on third-party assessments for this security standard from policy to an enforceable rule.

The Defense Department has moved beyond a simple suspension of third-party assessment requirements of the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification program and onto a binding regulation that essentially codifies the suspension.

A Sept. 3 memo from John Tenaglia -- DOD's principal director for defense pricing, contracting and acquisition policy -- has directed contracting officers to comply with requirements in the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul instead of the final CMMC rule that has been in place since November 2025 for contract clauses.

Read more at: https://www.nextgov.com/acquisition/2026/09/cmmcs-phase-2-suspension-locked-binding-regulation/415890/

Pentagon, FBI personnel-data breaches raise questions

By David DiMolfetta, Cybersecurity Reporter, Nextgov/FCW

The defense breach, which exposed about 3 million people, went undetected for months.

A Pentagon breach that exposed sensitive personnel information for months is raising questions yet again about federal agencies' ability to detect unauthorized access to their records.

Information about roughly 3 million people was potentially exposed from October 2025 to July 16, 2026, by a breach of a file-sharing system at the Defense Manpower Data Center, which maintains personnel information used across the military and other government agencies.

"Three million people may be the headline, but months of unauthorized access to highly sensitive data going undetected is the real warning," said Nitay Milner, co-founder and CEO of data security company ORION Security.

Read more at: https://www.defenseone.com/threats/2026/10/pentagon-personnel-data-breach-went-undetected-months/416421/

Opinion: Time, not capital, is the constraint on the defense industrial base

By James Demuth, CEO, Seurat Technologies

Here are three changes to speed things up without lowering standards.

The Pentagon's industrial-base problem is no longer a shortage of capital. It is the time required to turn that capital into qualified suppliers, suppliers into parts, and parts into weapons in warfighters' hands.

Three changes would shorten that timeline more than the next hundred billion dollars in appropriations. First, let defense suppliers that have earned a qualification for one program—that is, proven through testing and quality review that they meet its requirements—keep that qualification when seeking work in another program with similar requirements. Second, fund qualification as its own budget line. And third, increase multiyear acquisition to create the kind of demand that lower-tier suppliers can use to secure financing. None of these require new authority. None lowers a standard.

Read more at: https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2026/09/time-not-capital-constraint-defense-industrial-base/416135/

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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