Center Update
August 2020

Check out the Center’s recent and upcoming activities and events. For the latest, follow @MasonGovCon on Twitter, check out our website, or contact us at govcon@gmu.edu to sign up for our mailing list.

Research

Commentary


https://business.gmu.edu/govcon/
Media Mentions

Building Resilience in the Industrial Base in a COVID-19 World

Executive Director Jerry McGinn and senior writer for WashingtonExec Amanda Ziadeh discuss trends from the start of the pandemic, when Federal agencies used a “kitchen sink” approach to government contracting, to now where the Defense Production Act is being used to help with vaccine delivery.

In predicting what is to come, “new normal” isn’t a term that McGinn cares for. While he thinks we will not fully go back to business as usual, the question is what aspects of the COVID response will stick in the longer term. [link]

Education

The GMU 2020 Emerging Technology Conference

Be part of the technology conversation and be prepared to take a lead role in the digital transformation of business. The GMU 2020 Emerging Technology Conference focuses on understanding the unknown consequences as well as the emerging opportunities that await the accounting and financial management professions.

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What you’ll learn:

- How technology will change strategic business planning and demand operational efficiencies to remain competitive.
- How blockchain will impact accountants and auditors.
- How AI and process automation will impact the workforce, and the skills and knowledge that will be required for accounting and finance professionals.
- How to explore the massive disruption in workforce dynamics and human emotions—and the unknown consequences and opportunities that await the profession.
- What changes to expect in the future for AI, robotics, and analytics as discussed by industry experts and software providers.
- Hands-on use of leading technology platforms; analytics and data visualization; and more.

Collaboration

Upcoming Events

SEP 22 2020
IP and Government Procurement

The proper exercise of intellectual property (IP) in government procurement and
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contracting has become an issue of considerable importance in the Defense Department. When government fails to leverage its IP rights, it may pay more than it must for bespoke materiel from otherwise competitive industries. On the other hand, exercising those rights too strongly can damage industry’s incentives for innovation, potentially limiting the flow of those innovations to the military. These are both negative consequences for national security in a time of tightening military budgets but heightening military competition.

The IP stakes in IP management are thus high. What then is the value of IP to buyer and seller? What determines this value? How can the buyer and seller secure and maintain a value to which both with agree? To examine the value of IP rights, we will begin our discussion with a focused comparison of the Defense Department’s treatment of IP in two recent programs to buy trucks for the US Army and Marine Corps. If you too are thinking about the value of IP in government contracting, or are trying to frame your approach for an IP negotiation, our seminar will offer much-needed insights.

James Hasik, Ph.D.
Senior Research Fellow and Moderator

James Hasik is a senior research fellow at the Center for Government Contracting and a non-resident senior fellow at the Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security at the Atlantic Council. He has been studying global security challenges and the economic enterprises that provide the tools to address them.

Speakers to be announced soon.
Government Contracting in a Changed World

OCT 6 2020
Building Resilience

CONFERENCE WEBSITE

FIRESIDE CHAT - BUILDING RESILIENCE

The Honorable Adam Smith (WA)
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
US House of Representatives

Jerry McGinn, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Center for Government Contracting

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PANEL 1: STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAINS

Cheryl Dreuhl, Moderator
Associate Professor
Information Systems and Operations Management &
Associate Dean for Faculty
School of Business
George Mason University

Joe Hamel
Strategic Innovation and Emerging Technology Manager
Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Preparedness & Response
Health and Human Services

Jeffrey Nadaner
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for
Industrial Policy
Office of the Secretary of Defense for
Acquisition and Sustainment

Mike Petters
President and Chief Executive Officer
Huntington Ingalls Industries

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PANEL 2: CMMC IMPLEMENTATION

Chris Newborn, Moderator  
Professor of Information Technology, Cyber Defense Acquisition University

Stacy Bostjanick  
Director of Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Policy  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment

Karlton Johnson  
Vice Chairman, Board of Directors  
Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification, Accreditation Body

Robert Santos  
President and Co-Founder  
MetroStar Systems

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Marc Andersen talked with WashingtonExec senior writer Amanda Ziadeh about hope and helping each other during the COVID crisis [article].

Jim Fontana, co-founder and managing partner of Dempsey Fontana, PLLC, was in the news several times this month regarding the STARS II program and its shortened vendor timeline. He was quoted in FCW on August 6, “Lawmakers Push Back on STARS Shutoff Date;” as well as in Washington Technology where he said he would “challenge the legitimacy of the changes;” then again in FCW on August 28.

The Honorable Dr. John Hillen was in the news frequently in August. Both GovConWire and Virginia Business Magazine reported that his company, EverWatch Solutions, acquired BrainTrust Holdings, a leading provider of innovative technology solutions to the intelligence and defense communities. [EverWatch Press Release]

Dr. Hillen is also included in WashingtonExec’s regular feature Execs to Know. Also in WashingtonExec, he discussed leadership pitfalls and strategies to combat them, as referenced in his 2018 book What Happens Now.

Forbes quoted Dr. Hillen in an article, “It’s Time To Re-Set Your Strategic Thinking Post-Covid.”
Managing Director & National Co-Leader of Government Contracts at BDO, Aaron Raddock was quoted in the Wall Street Journal article, “PPP Loans: Why Some Government Contractors Are Returning the Money.”

Congratulations to Craig Reed for being named President and Chief Growth Officer of Altamira Technologies, reported in numerous business journals including the Washington Business Journal Online, WashingtonExec, Business Wire article, and GovConWire.

Christine Williamson, a partner with Cohn Reznick, is co-author of the 2020 GAUGE Report. This Report is an annual survey that reveals the best practices and benchmarks of government contracting each year. Release of the Report, with quotes from Williamson, was picked up by GovConWire.

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## Resources

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<tr>
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