




Department of the Army Office of Small Business Programs

Newsletter

December 2013



Mr. Harry Hallock, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement), speaks about Army efforts to enhance small business utilization during the Army Small Business Forum at the 2013 AUSA Annual Meeting. This Army OSBP-hosted event, held for the first time, featured several Army senior leaders and drew over 200 attendees.

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Building the Future of the Army through Small Business Utilization

District Contractor Receives Top Award from Small Business Administration

An Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District small business contractor recently received a prestigious honor in recognition of hard work and commitment in growing into a successful small business company.

TANTARA Corporation of Worcester, MA, was named the 2013 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year for Region I by the Small Business Administration (SBA). The company received the honor during an awards presentation held at Fenway Park, Boston, MA, in June. Ms. Eva Marie D'Antuono, New England District's Deputy for Small Business and nominator of the award, attended the ceremony with TANTARA Corporation's CEO Ms. Dawn Dearborn and several other members of her company. Ms. Dearborn received the award from the former SBA Administrator, Ms. Karen Mills.

The criteria for consideration for the award are stringent. Nominees must demonstrate exceptional performance in the following categories: overall management, financial strength, labor relations, customer interface, technical capabilities, resource utilization, cost preference, and delivery schedule. In addition to meeting or exceeding all of the criteria, TANTARA Corporation's nomination package contained over a dozen letters of commendation and high-rated performance evaluations from very satisfied clients. "Tantara is an example of the vision SBA had for small businesses in establishing the 8(a) Business Development Program," said Ms. D'Antuono.

TANTARA Corporation provides environmental and heavy civil construction and remediation services along the Eastern Seaboard to clients that include USACE, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Air National Guard, National Park Service, as well as numerous municipal, private-sector, utility and institutional organizations.

Since Ms. Dearborn founded the company in 2000, TANTARA Corporation has grown from two to twenty employees and has evolved from a supporting subcontractor to a prime contractor, winning many competitive contract awards nationally.

Mr. Jim Morocco, New England District Resident Engineer, worked with the company on a repair project for Patterndam Bridge in Holland, MA. "All materials and quality met or exceeded all contract requirements," he said.

TANTARA Corporation also worked on a sediment removal project at Union Village Dam in Vermont, even in the face of Hurricane Irene in August 2011. "The dewatering area and crane staging area were submerged for weeks. The haul road was washed out and all large equipment was needed elsewhere to repair roads and storm damage," said Christine Johnson-Battista, Deputy Chief of Construction Division. "TANTARA Corporation was able to get the crane back to the site. The contractor worked in more water and colder weather than anticipated. Still, TANTARA Corporation was able to excavate all 4,100 cubic yards by December 2011."

For many years, TANTARA Corporation has provided service on many New England District Projects to include erosion repairs at Edward MacDowell Lake Dam in New Hampshire, remediation work at Pownal Tannery Superfund Site in Vermont, the Eastern Woolen Mill Superfund Site in Maine, at the former Fort Devens in Massachusetts and many more.

Although receiving the 2013 Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award for Region I is the latest honor bestowed upon the company, it is not TANTARA Corporation's first. The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City and FORTUNE Magazine recognized TANTARA Corporation on the "2013 Inner City 100" fastest-growing urban

business list. The company also received The Pacesetters Select 70 Award, ranking as the 15th fastest-growing firm in the region given by the Boston Business Journal.

*Submitted by:
Ms. Eva Marie D'Antuono, Deputy for Small Business and Ms. Ann Marie R. Harvie, Public Affairs Office, Army Corps of Engineers, New England District*



Ms. Jeanne A. Hulit, Acting Administrator of the Small Business Administration (left) stands with Ms. Dawn Dearborn, CEO of TANTARA Corporation and Mr. Robert Nelson, District Director of the SBA Massachusetts District Office during the awards presentation. (Photo provided by SBA)



Ms. Karen Mills, former Administrator for the SBA, stands with Ms. Dawn Dearborn, CEO of TANTARA Corporation, after congratulating her on TANTARA's award.



TANTARA employees performing repair work on the Patterndam Bridge in Holland, MA.



Production of the next issue is already underway!

Please submit articles to:
cameron.e.miles.ctr@mail.mil or
anthony.m.braun2.ctr@mail.mil

**Article submission deadline:
February 14, 2013**

Feedback

Let us know what you think about the newsletter by filling out our contact form at:
<http://www.sellingtoarmy.com/contact>

U.S. Army OSBP

Our Mission

- Advise the Secretary of the Army and the Army leadership on small business related matters
- Spearhead innovative initiatives that contribute to expanding the small business industrial base relevant to the Army mission priorities
- Leverage the use of minority serving educational institutions in support of Army science and technology programs

Our Vision

To be the premier advocacy organization committed to maximizing small business utilization in support of rapidly fielding a trained, ready, responsive and capable force that can prevent conflict, shape the environment and win the Nation's wars.

Statement by President Barack Obama

"Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the cornerstones of our communities. They create two of every three new jobs in America, spur economic growth, and spark new industries across the country. We will continue to create new incentives to help small business owners hire new workers, promote growth and do what America does best - invest in the creativity and imagination of our people."

-President Barack Obama