



NASA Ames Contractor Council
Meeting Minutes
October 31, 2023
Meeting held virtually via Microsoft TEAMS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>M/S</u>	<u>Phone</u>
NASA Representative	Amir Deylami	ARC		
President	Kari Gonter	Metis Technology Solutions		(760) 500-0136
Vice President	Vince DeFrancisci	Bay Area Environmental Research Institute		
Treasurer	Sara Jain	Tellus Solutions		(408) 368-0726
Secretary	Valerie Escobar	AMA	N229-3	(408) 761-6063

Call to Order [11:02] by Kari Gonter

Introductions

Thomas Paine, Administrative Officer:

- Ames is working towards shutdown preparation in case there is a government shutdown.
- Amir was at a Mission Support Forum last week at JSC and the big topics of discussion were:
 - o Infrastructure
 - o IT
 - o Workforce
- Master planning activities have ramped up.
- NASA 2040 structure team is going to be out at Ames November 1st and 2nd.
- NASA Ames honor awards will be held in the Auditorium on November 1st

Christine Munroe, Small Business Specialist

- Agency: Made the small business goal, but the other 4 social economic category goals were not met (SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, SDVOSB)
- NASA Ames made all their small business goals (Small Business, SDB, WOSB, HUBZone, SDVOSB)
- Upcoming OSBP Learning Series (3rd Wed of each month 10am PST/ 1pmEST.):
<https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/regional-outreach> or <https://www.nasa.gov/osbp/>

- o November 15: Native American Business Development Programs
- o December 13: Programs and Resources to help you do Business with the Federal Government
- o January 17: How Best to Market to NASA
- Small Business Liaison Officer (SBLO) Training “Second Wednesday” FY 24: To get on the email invitation list, email Stephanie.Lewis@sba.gov
 - o Nov 8, 2023 –Subcontracting Plan Compliance 101 (Gary Heard)
 - o Dec 13, 2023 –Definition of small business and the socioeconomic categories (Sophia Chou)
 - o Jan 10, 2024 –Setting Subcontracting Plan Goals (Valerie Coleman)
- SBA Sacramento District Office Government Contracting Assistance& Networking (GCAN) In-Person Meeting: November 9,2023, 9:00 AM –11:30AM
 - o Government Participants:
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - DoD’s Defense Microelectronics Activity
 - U.S. Air Force’s Beale AFB
 - APEX Accelerators
 - Caltrans -District3

Nat Landin, Business Operations Specialist for Transpacific Technologies, Inc.

- Transpacific Technologies is the leading provider of engineering, technology, and facility management solutions.
- Two umbrellas of work that they prioritize:
 - o Engineering and Technology: Focus on systems engineering hardware and software development and information technology
 - o Facility Engineering and Management: Focus on environmental health, safety, environmental science, energy management, quality control and project management.

ACC Business Items

ACC President’s Report – Kari Gonter

- Kari approved the October minutes at 11:31 am.
- Kari did some background work on the golf tournament. We are going to plan a springtime event. We are looking for 1-2 other people to help with discussions.
- We are going to be changing officers in February. The positions of President, Vice President and Secretary will be open for election.

ACC Vice President’s Report – Vince DeFrancisci

- No Report

ACC Treasurer’s Report – Sara Jain

- Beginning balance: \$18,078.00
- Expense: \$24.95 (web hosting)
- Total ending balance: \$18,053.05

ACC Secretary's Report – Valerie Escobar

- No Report

Committee Reports

Small Business – Saba Hussain

- November 21st is next scheduled Small Business meeting. It will be held via Teams at 12pm, please reach out to Kari if you need access to the meeting invite.

Ames Calendar– Faten Mansour

- Calendars will be ready this week, sponsors should reach out to Faten to arrange for pick-up or shipping (at an additional expense).
- Valerie Escobar is working on submitting information for a Center wide announcing calendar sales (80 calendars total), Faten is going to send wording to include in the announcement.

Marketing and Communications - Renee Mitchell

- No Report.

Imagination Foundation – David Cornelius and Linda McCahon

- Team Andromeda was selected to compete in the Human Exploration Rover Challenge, payment for the approved grant is in process.
- No new grant applications at this time.

Public Policy- Sara Jain

- NASA officials refer to this as Asteroid Autumn and they're not kidding. On October 12th they revealed the first samples that were just returned from the asteroid Bennu by the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft while at the same time getting ready to launch the Psyche mission to a very different type of asteroid on October 13th. Those are just two of several asteroid missions in development, operations, or analysis at the agency right now as scientists continue their quest to discover how the solar system — and life — formed.
- NASA's Psyche spacecraft started a billion mile journey to an asteroid by that name between Mars and Jupiter on October 13th. Of all the thousands and thousands of asteroids, Psyche is one of only nine discovered so far that is composed primarily of metal instead of rock. Scientists think it may have been the core of a tiny planet and thus may hold clues to the cores of Earth and other planets. Psyche also is being used as a technology testbed for a Deep Space Optical Communications system.
- SpaceX told a Senate committee on October 18th that government regulations are slowing the development of Starship and the commercial human spaceflight industry is at a "breaking point" in terms of maintaining U.S. leadership in space. The message from SpaceX and other industry leaders was that ensuring safety is important, but so is innovation and the regulatory landscape has to change for the U.S. to stay ahead of China.
- NASA may have received discouraging news from a recent independent review of the Mars Sample Return mission, but key NASA officials and members of the space science community remain upbeat about finding a path forward. NASA is just beginning a detailed examination of the report to determine next steps, but at a meeting of NASA's Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group on October 20th, the message was that returning samples from Mars is the highest priority planetary science mission and they will find a way to do it.

Safety Outreach– Mike Weiss and Linda McCahon

- No Report.

ACC Golf Tournament– Kari Gonter and Trey Croom

- We are trying to figure out Sponsorship levels for the event, which will be targeted for Spring 2024.

Contractor Excellence Awards– Debbie Koyler

- No Report.

New Business

- Kimberly Salazar has been the ACC representative for the Ames Exchange, and no longer lives close enough to perform the role and is looking for someone on the ACC to take her place in supporting Happy Hours at Ames.

Adjourning the Meeting

- Kari Gonter adjourned the meeting at 11:51 am.

Next Scheduled Meeting

- The next official meeting will be held virtually on December 6, 2023, at 11 am (PST).