



NASA Ames Contractor Council
Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2021
Meeting held virtually via Microsoft TEAMS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>M/S</u>	<u>Phone</u>
NASA Representative	Carol Carroll	ARC	200-9	4-0256
President	Kari Gonter	Metis Technology Solutions		(760) 500-0136
Vice President	Mark Rowland	Flight Research	NRP-19	(510) 366-5909
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

Christine Munroe, NASA Small Business

- The 2020 award winners have been posted, and this year the Small Business Subcontractor of the year is Metis Technology Solutions and the Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year is Millennium Engineering and Integration Services. Congratulations to the winners.

Guest Speaker: David Brock, Marshall Space Flight Center Small Business Specialist

- Mr. Brock has been the Small Business Specialist at Marshall for several years. In the last year his office has added an additional goal to their portfolio, they are now managing the Headquarters OSBP Mentor Protégé Program.
- Marshall inherited this program back in October 1, 2019. The purpose of the program is to incentivize the large companies and some research institutions to mentor small companies and to enhance their capabilities to perform as both prime contractors and also subcontractors to the primes.
- March 1, 2020 was when the Mentor-Protégé Program opened its doors to start receiving new Mentor-Protégé agreements. Most important piece of documentation found on the website is the Mentor-Protégé Guidebook, which goes into detail about the program and how a mentor and

a protégé can participate. When drafting an agreement, the minimum participation is 1 year, and the maximum 3 years.

- In order to be an approved Mentor a company would need to have a Prime contract in place with NASA with an approved Subcontracting plan in place as part of that contract.
- As a Protégé you need to meet the size standard of the NACE code that is assigned to the work or the area where you would be mentored under and you need to meet one of the classification types.
- A Needs Assessment is the first step in developing a Mentor-Protégé relationship. The Mentor needs to meet with the potential Protégé to determine a plan of action to help the protégé grow. The next step is to discuss this arrangement with your Small Business Specialist, CO and COR at the Center where the mentoring is going to take place. This conversation will begin the process of creating an endorsement letter which will be submitted to Mr. Brock's office for review and acceptance.
- Don't hesitate to call or send an email David if you have any questions. Mentor-Protégé Program has a dedicated phone number and email address to discuss any question mentors or protégés may have.

ACC Business Items

ACC President's Report – Kari Gonter

- Kari approved the March Minutes at 11:41 am.
- Kari spoke to David Korsmeyer in March, and he will be attending our May meeting.

ACC Vice President's Report – Mark Rowland

- No Report

ACC Treasurer's Report – Sara Jain

- Beginning balance: \$19,108.39
 - o \$24.95 for Website hosting (internet services for our website)
 - o \$2,000 Imagination Foundation Grant to ECN for Outreach
 - o \$2,000 Imagination Foundation Grant to ECN for Personal Development Workshops.
- Total Net income: \$15,083.44

ACC Secretary's Report – Valerie Escobar

- No Report

Committee Reports

Small Business – Saba Hussain

- Working to display Small Business capabilities, we have presentation today from Transpacific, small business out of Southern CA.
 - o Transpacific Technologies, Inc is a small business that provides wide range of engineering and technical support services (hardware and software development, IT and also facilities O&M). Established in 2007 in Pasadena, CA, with 60+ years of technology and aerospace.

- o Hardware Development Capabilities: They provide analog digital circuit design as well as electromechanical work, firmware development (the development of A6 and FPGAs for embedded applications) and RF calibrations (characterization and understanding the uncertainty within a down converter).
 - o Why do business with Transpacific? Transpacific understands how to respond and analyze requirements and they carefully vet any candidates that they interview before they are sent to the client for interviews. They are agile and have the ability to quickly respond to changing requirements and staffing changes. They have a wide range of past performance and capabilities that they offer.
 - o Transpacific's presentation will be made available of the ACC website.
- Send Kari or Saba an email if you would like to be added to the Small Business meeting invite, third Thursday of the Month. They are aiming to introduce a new business at each monthly ACC meeting.
 - Small Business Committee April 15th at 11am, they are speaking with another company to see if they can present their capability statement at our May meeting.

Marketing and Communications - Renee Mitchell

- There is a discussion that will be held off-line to decide if the additional domain names that have been registered to the ACC will be necessary to maintain at a cost of \$50/year or \$90 for two years, or if the newsletters and awards should be added to the main ACC website.

Imagination Foundation – David Cornelius and Linda McCahon

- No new requests for grants at this time.

Public Policy- Sara Jain

- President Biden has selected Bill Nelson as NASA's 14th Administrator. President Biden made it official on March 19th announcing his intent to nominate the former Democratic Florida Senator. Nelson is a career politician who served in both the House and the Senate. While a member of the House science committee, he flew as a payload specialist on a 1986 space shuttle mission.
- On April 1st, the office of the inspector general at NASA has issued a report saying it estimates the costs of facility closures, delays and other challenges facing the space agency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic to reach nearly \$3 billion. NASA stressed that these figures are not an assessment of the ability of any particular project to meet its milestones and projects would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- White House Press Secretary, Jen Psaki, confirmed on March 30th that the Space Program is one area that President Biden and Former-President Trump actually share common ground, like retaining the National Space Council, support Space Force and NASA's Artemis Program.
- On March 30th SpaceX suffered its fourth Starship test failure in a row today, but company founder and chief engineer Elon Musk remains undeterred, tweeting plans for the next test. He is expanding operations at his Star base test facility in Boca Chica, TX and encouraging people to move there to work for SpaceX. Over the course of the past four months, tests of Starship prototypes Serial Number 8 (SN8), SN9, SN10, and now SN11 have ended in what are whimsically called Rapid Unscheduled Disassemblies (RUDs) — explosions.
- NASA is targeting no earlier than Sunday, April 11, for its *Ingenuity* Mars Helicopter's first attempt at powered, controlled flight on another planet via rotor blades that are constructed from carbon

fiber and foam core. To mark a month of *Ingenuity* flights, the agency will host several events to bring people along for the ride. A livestream confirming *Ingenuity's* first flight is targeted to begin around 3:30 a.m. EDT Monday, April 12, on NASA Television, the NASA app, and the agency's website, and will livestream on multiple agency social media platforms, including the JPL YouTube and Facebook channels. *Ingenuity* arrived at Mars' Jezero Crater Feb. 18, 2021, attached to the belly of NASA's *Perseverance* rover. The helicopter is a technology demonstration with a planned test flight duration of up to 31 days (30 Mars days, or sols). The rover will provide support during flight operations, taking images, collecting environmental data and hosting the base station that enables the helicopter to communicate with mission controllers on Earth. The flight date may shift as engineers work on the deployments, preflight checks and vehicle positioning of both *Perseverance* and *Ingenuity*. Timing for events will be updated as needed, and the latest schedule will be available on the helicopter's Watch Online webpage (<https://mars.nasa.gov/technology/helicopter/>).

Safety Outreach- Mike Weiss and Linda McCahon

- Nothing to report. The Center is looking for more guidance from the County before making any changes to their current COVID response framework.

New Business

- David Korsmeyer will be joining us at the beginning of our next meeting.

Adjourning the Meeting

- Kari Gonter adjourned the meeting at 11:56 am.

Next Scheduled Meeting

- The next official meeting will be held virtually on May 5, 2021 at 11 am (PST).