

Defense Logistics Agency and Small Business

By Leslie Ann McMillan

Small businesses throughout the United States have some great opportunities for government contracts through an enormous federal entity known as the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). Even if that particular option does not seem like the right fit for your business, consider that the DLA oversees a nationwide network of local APEX Accelerators (formerly PTAC) that can assist with information, preparation, registration, certification, and other aspects of the contracting process with local, state, and federal government agencies.

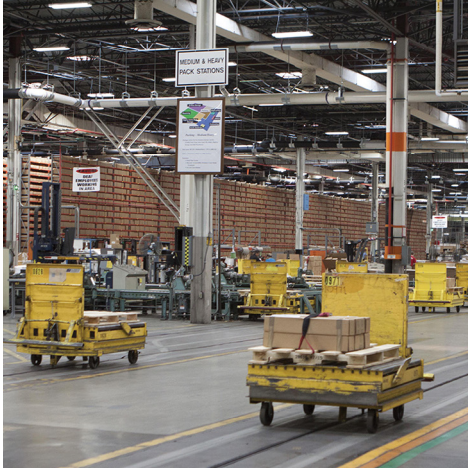
This Louisiana Business Journal article is based directly on descriptions that you can find on the DLA website (www.dla.mil). We encourage you to read this article for several pieces of relevant information, and also to visit the DLA website for more thorough explanations. You might be surprised by what you learn and how it could apply to your business development and growth—either in the near future or at a later time when you and your business are ready.

History of the DLA

The origins of the Defense Logistics Agency date back to World War II, when America's huge military buildup required the rapid procurement of vast amounts of munitions and supplies. After the war, a presidential commission headed by former President Herbert Hoover recommended centralizing management of common military logistics support and introducing uniform financial management practices. Integrated management of supplies and services began in 1952 with the establishment of a joint Army-Navy-Air Force Support Center to control identification of supply items. For the first time, all the military services bought, stored, and issued items using a common nomenclature. For more information on the history of the DLA, please see www.dla.mil/AboutDLA/History

DLA Small Business Programs

Small businesses provide critical resources that contribute to the DLA's mission. The DLA is committed to providing all categories of small businesses an opportunity to participate in DLA acquisitions. The website contains information to



inform and educate small businesses about DLA requirements and procurement practices whose mission is to "Support the Warfighter." DLA is the Department of Defense's (DoD) largest combat support agency. It provides worldwide logistics

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SOUTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2024

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar
Thursday, June 20, 2024, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>
Fee: Free; registration required
Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are

you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, July 25, 2024, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

CERTIFICATION

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is DBE certified by the Louisiana UCP.

