

Alaska Procurement Connection

A Monthly Newsletter From Your Procurement Technical Assistance Centers

January 2006

Jan Fredericks

November 11, 1945 - November 25, 2005

The Alaska Small Business Development Center said farewell to Jan Fredericks November 25, 2005. Jan was the State Director of the ASBDC for the last 15 years where she was an ardent supporter of Alaska businesses and the PTAC program. She passed away at home in the loving company of her family, after a five-month battle with cancer.

A resident of Alaska since 1963, Jan lived in Bethel, Kodiak, and Anchorage. She was a schoolteacher, social worker, and city manager in Bethel. In Anchorage, she worked with the Calista Corporation, was the Executive Director of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, and was CEO for the Kuskokwim Corporation for 10 years.

I had the great honor of working alongside Jan during the last several years at the ASBDC. It's difficult to express the many ways Jan positively impacted not only me, but the entire PTAC program. Without her support and encouragement neither I, nor this program, would have achieved the successes we have over the past two years.

It was always a comfort to know that the "Queen of Everything" was just a few steps away to provide words of wisdom often filled with humor and relayed through a well-told story. She provided constant strength and security in the face of many storms, confronting them head-on with great gusto – much how she lived her life. She was an amazing leader.

Jan had an uncanny ability to notice and nurture the potential in people. This could be seen everyday as Jan worked tirelessly to develop some remarkable business owners and leaders. Her legacy will be felt for decades as those she believed in and encouraged carry on and grow, giving back to those in turn.

There are few times in life when we can say we are better for having known someone, and I can truly say this about Jan. I am grateful for the lessons she lived and I am a better individual for having known her. She will be missed everyday, but her spirit carries on and her laughter fills the hearts of those who knew her.

–Katherine Anderson, PTAC Program Manager

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Check out the PTAC
Calendar of Events for
Upcoming Opportunities!

www.ptacalaska.org



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A Program of:



University of Alaska
Small Business
Development Center

EC/EDI Corner

Contributed by Mary Wheeler (fnmaw@uaf.edu)

Alaska Database of Community Information

The Alaska Community Database is a useful information source for local Alaska communities. The Community Information Summaries website includes a map of Alaska noting location, climate, population, demographics, and points of contact for each Alaska community. This site also includes links that connect to various development organizations in Alaska and provide economic information, community resources, project and funding databases, and contact information.

—http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_CIS.htm

Census Product Update

The US Census Bureau Product Update website provides updates on construction activity and new orders for durable goods manufacturers in the United States under the “Headline News” link. The site also includes statistics and economic indicators for business forecasting.

—<http://www.census.gov/mp/www/cpu/cpu.html>

Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy

The Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) website includes links to DPAP directorates; Resources (including Supply Chain Systems Transformation); Items of Interest (including DFARS Transformation and Doing Business with the Department of Defense); Education; and Systems. The “Systems” category includes a link to the Defense Acquisition Guidebook, which is considered an “interactive, on-line reference to policy and discretionary best practice.” The set-up of the on-line Guidebook, intended for use by both the acquisition community and industry partners, can make locating acquisition information simple.

—<http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap>

For more information on RFID technology contact Carolyn Pratt at Carolyn@trendalaska.org or for research applications contact Oliver Hedgepeth at 786-4171.

Fresh Fish and RFID—One Hot Combo

Contributed by Carolyn Pratt (carolyn@trendalaska.org)

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) is researching ways of using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to provide Alaska businesses a competitive edge in the global marketplace under a grant from the Department of Defense. RFID is a technology that uses radio waves to transmit key information over short distances.

UAA, in conjunction with Nano Logistics, LLC and Chenega Corporation is researching a wide range of product and inventory control applications using RFID tags. Students taking a course in RFID develop real-world solutions for Alaska companies and the military. Alaska’s own Matanuska Maid Dairy has helped the University test RFID use on its delivery systems. And, the US Army is currently examining how to improve its property book system, which the military uses to inventory and track goods. Transportation firms are also working with UAA to better understand how to integrate their cargo handling operations.

In one study, UAA’s Logistics Department placed active RFID tags into 50-pound wet-lock boxes filled with fresh salmon from Alaskan locations such as Sitka and Bristol Bay. These RFID tags monitored and recorded the interior temperature of the boxes every 30 minutes. The shipment was followed through the supply chain from the point the fish were placed in the box, to delivery to retailers in Chicago and Seattle. Retailers then removed the tags from the boxes and returned them to UAA for reading. The tags were read and their data placed alongside transportation data such as movement and storage on trucks and in chill rooms, handling, and air cargo holding areas.

The results showed that some carriers really did have the boxes chilled to temperatures appropriate to ensure a fresh product. However; some boxes had higher temperatures than expected en route, some fish products even rose above freezing and then later dropped to freezing. One box became a truly “hot” item when the entire load disappeared.

There is a new world economy and technology structure emerging—being on the leading edge can make the difference between business survival or extermination. UAA’s Logistics Department is at the center of exploring that frontier, through the lens of RFID sensor technology and economic modeling.

'06 Construction Season Ramps Up

Contributed by K. Anderson (anksa@uaa.alaska.edu)

The Associated General Contractors of Alaska hosted a federal and state agency project update at its annual conference November 10, 2005 at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage. 2006 appears to be another good year for construction in Alaska with a lot of changes coming for the way business is conducted.

One hot topic was the fallout from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). Although Eielson escaped closure, a number of other installations were set for realignment or closing including Kulis ANGB. Some functions of Kulis ANGB will realign to Elmendorf AFB. What that means, no one knows for sure except that it will change the way procurement is currently being handled. Currently there are no military construction (MILCON) projects on tap. The only projects being accomplished at this time at Kulis ANGB are sustainment, restoration, and modernization projects when there is a life, health, or safety issue. The language for BRAC has not been formalized; however, the law did go into effect November 8. Now the waiting game begins. It could take up to six years to facilitate a complete move.

Army transformation and modularity was once again a buzzword at the Conference. This will have an impact on the construction community, according to Pete Perez, Chief, Construction/Operations, US Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District. It changes the business approach of contracting to allow better, faster, cheaper, greener, and safer operations. In essence, it is changing how the Army meets the needs of the future. To accomplish this goal, the Corps plans to develop more standardized building designs and to use materials more common to the private sector.

US Air Force

According to the US Air Force 3rd Contracting Squadron representatives, the percentage of work going to 8(a) certified firms is increasing, with just about all construction projects going through setaside programs. MILCON Projects for the 3CONS include a C-17 Dual-Bay Maintenance Complex and AAFES Shopette, among others. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) projects include: elevator repair; hydrant fueling system repair; and taxiway repair. Eielson AFB also has a number of projects on their project list including demolishing the base chapel and credit union and constructing sidewalks

and repairing housing foundations. There are also a number of roof repair projects slated for Eielson. The 611th Air Support Group prefers issuing IDIQ contracts through AFCEE, but did have a few O&M projects on their list to include repairing a fire hydrant system at Eareckson AFB and repairing the water supply system at Tin City.

US Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District

The Corps anticipates spending \$580 million this year, according to Marie McDonald, Chief, Civil/Military Branch. Most of the money will be spent on housing projects. Nine of the 25 projects listed on the Corps 2006 project list are housing-related projects, and another is a Design/Build MATOC for vertical construction which will also include housing components. Other projects include bank stabilizations for Bethel and Dillingham; upgrades to existing utilidors and range power and fiber optics at Eielson AFB; and the ERS-IDIQ contracts for environmental restoration services. A complete list of Corps projects can be found at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/hm/default.htm>.

US Coast Guard

The USCG hopes for \$30 million for Alaska in 2006. All projects are currently tentative, but some anticipated contracts include: constructing communication towers in Prince William Sound; pier repairs for Ketchikan; and roof replacement in Attu.

Alaska Department of Transportation

ADOT&PF could spend more than \$700 million in 2006, according to ADOT&PF representatives. The State anticipates getting roughly \$500 million in federal funds to support the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects and \$173 million from State general funds to go toward road and public facilities projects. Specific funding levels won't be known until after the New Year.

Roughly \$2.5 billion was to be distributed over five years for Alaska in the federal spending bill, SAFETEA-Lu. About \$1 billion of that money was earmarked for special projects. Congress has typically funded about 88 percent of money it has authorized in previous transportation bills. Alaska may see about 85 percent of the money designated in the bill, according to Mike Barton, ADOT&PF Commissioner.

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UA Small Business Development Center



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e-Subcontract Reporting System Launched
Contributed by Megan Luna (anmcl1@uaa.alaska.edu)

The Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the launch of the Electronic Subcontract Reporting System (eSRS) in a press release dated November 2, 2005. In conjunction with GSA, SBA is implementing the eSRS with the intention of streamlining the reporting of small business subcontracting activity on large federal prime contracts.

According to SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto, “This is very important, because it will give us precise and timely insight into the value of subcontracts awarded to small businesses. Subcontracting is an increasingly important part of the federal contracting environment for small business. For many smaller firms, it is the first opportunity to demonstrate capability, and to build a track record for pursuing federal prime contract opportunities.”

The system is part of an initiative to use technology to streamline federal procurement processes as part of the President’s Management Agenda for Electronic Government. According to SBA, this will eliminate submission and processing of paper SF249’s and SF295’s, Individual Subcontracting Reports and Summary Subcon-

tracting Reports, respectively. Also, the new system will provide agencies with immediate access to subcontracting performance data. Benefits to the contractor include eliminating manual computations previously required on SF294’s and SF295’s.

Entry of required subcontracting information can be done on the eSRS website: <http://www.esrs.gov>. Contractors can log on to report accomplishments. The site also includes FAQ information, as well as training and registration information. This new system has been at initial operating capacity since late October and it is expected to reach full operating capacity in late first quarter 2006. When it does reach full capacity, a back-office interface will be available as well.

If contractors have any questions about submitting their reports, they should contact their contracting officer. The Department of Defense (DoD) will not begin using eSRS until the third quarter of FY2006. As a result, DoD contractors should continue to submit paper reports until they receive official notification .

If you have general questions about eSRS, email esrs@sba.gov or contact SBA’s Commercial Market Representative for Alaska, Charlotte Eberle at 271-4022.