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BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates, was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1975 to promote professional growth and technical development to those in or entering information and communications technology (ICT) career fields and related industries.

Now in its 43rd year (Volume XLIII) National BDPA (NBDPA) and participating local BDPA Chapters publish daily and weekly blogs with quarterly or monthly newsletters. For bdpatoday or web banner advertising rates, publication schedules, and online calendars with Industry events, contact regional offices or local BDPA Chapters by visiting bdpa.org or bdpatoday.com.
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS — Ron Hamm
WASHINGTON 06.10.19 — 1. The House and Senate are in session this week. The House will take up a “mini-bus” package of five FY2020 appropriations bills (Defense, Energy & Water, Labor/HHS, Leg Branch, and State/Foreign Operations). Reportedly, House Democratic leaders will try to pass all the FY2020 appropriations bills by the end of June to allow time for negotiations with the Senate before the new fiscal year begins on October 1. The Senate will vote on 2 resolutions by Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) to block arms sales to Bahrain and Qatar.

2. After last Friday’s jobs report showed only 75,000 jobs were added in May (100,000 fewer than predicted and a steep fall from April’s 224,000 jobs), Washington observers now widely expect the Federal Reserve will move to cut rates this year, as early as next month. The current federal funds target rate is 2.25% to 2.5%.

3. Politico reports the White House will announce that Tomas Philipson, a former University of Chicago economist and specialist in health care policy, will replace Kevin Hassett as Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). Philipson already serves one of the 3 members of the CEA. 

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BDPA’s Middle Tennessee Chapter Hosts 2019’s South Regional Conference — by Judy Lane

BDPA Middle TN SITES/HSCC Coordinator Lancelot DaSilva shares his journey from working as a summer college intern at Deloitte to becoming a Lead Business Solution Analyst. South Regional High School Coding Competition (HSCC) finalists head to Atlanta for #BDPACon19. August 1-3, 2019 | BDPA2019.com
St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson on why her city is the nation’s burgeoning center for geospatial excellence

by Lisbeth Perez, Trajectory Magazine

SAN ANTONIO, TX — During a keynote address at GEOINT 2019 Wednesday morning, St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson expressed her excitement and aspirations for the future of GEOINT in St. Louis.

“I’m proud to say that St. Louis is the nation’s center for geospatial excellence,” Krewson declared.

In June 2016, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), in collaboration with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Air Force, decided to invest $1.7 billion to build the Next NGA West (N2W) campus in North St. Louis. The new headquarters will be located just North of the gateway arch, a monument that commemorates the famous expedition of Lewis & Clark.

“Since [2016] we have worked to prepare the site for NGA’s new home,” Krewson said. “27 city blocks were cleared. Over 60,000 archeological artifacts uncovered. 830,000 tons of dirt was removed and over 30,000 cubic yards of streets were removed.”

The 97-acre N2W campus—scheduled to be completed by 2025—will include an office building of approximately 712,000 square feet, an inspection facility, access control points, a visitor’s center, and parking garages.

“We see a very bright future in St. Louis with geospatial technology leading the way.”

— ST. LOUIS MAYOR LYDA KREWSON

See GEOINT 2019 on page 7
Krewson noted that NGA has been a part of the St. Louis community for approximately 70 years. In 1952, the St. Louis Arsenal, where the NGA West Campus currently resides, went from manufacturing and supplying small arms to becoming the U.S. Air Force’s Aeronautical Chart and Information Center.

“We are so excited to continue our partnership with NGA and help them meet their mission for our country and the century,” Krewson said.

As part of its mission, NGA will collaborate with the private sector, geospatial startups, and neighborhoods in and around the future N2W location. The agency also plans on collaborating with neighborhood schools and surrounding universities to train and educate its next generation of employees.

Krewson pointed to remarks made by NGA Director Vice Adm. Robert Sharp in April during the inaugural Geo-Resolution conference at Saint Louis University: “I couldn’t be more excited about what we’re doing in St. Louis and it starts with people and with partnerships,” Sharp said. “We are also committed to those people and partnerships. We are all working together for the future.”

Krewson also noted the value of the area’s regional and state governments, civic organizations, academic institutions, economic development groups, and businesses that are all collaborating to create a thriving geospatial ecosystem.

“Our ecosystem of mission-driven geospatial partners, innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, thinkers, and doers make St. Louis the place where you can put yourself on the map,” Krewson said. “We see a very bright future in St. Louis with geospatial technology leading the way.”

The GEOINT Symposium will be held in St. Louis for the first time in 2023, and again in 2025.

**About the GEOINT Symposium**

In 2003, a group of leading authorities realized an inherent need for a unified vision and approach to promoting the geospatial intelligence tradecraft. This group created the successful GEO-INTEL 2003 conference—the predecessor to the annual GEOINT Symposium—and in early 2004 established USGIF. The Foundation’s mission was, and continues to be, to bring together government, industry, academia, professional organizations and individuals for the advancement of the geospatial intelligence tradecraft as it relates to national security.

Being the first and only organization of its kind, USGIF has helped to advance the tradecraft through its many events and programs, such as the highly acclaimed GEOINT Symposium and technology focused Tech Days. The Foundation currently has more than 200 sustaining member organizations supporting and assisting in executing the Foundation’s objectives. The Foundation also has made education a top priority, exemplified by its scholarships, college and university accreditation programs, grants to underprivileged K-12 schools and other initiatives.

USGIF is dedicated to bringing together the many disciplines involved in the geospatial intelligence sector to exchange ideas, share best practices and promote the education and importance of a national geospatial intelligence agenda.

*Photos: BDPA, bdpatoday, USGIF/Trajectory*
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Maintaining and securing Federal IT requires a large, well-educated IT workforce. However, current Federal hiring practices are not in line with the needs to acquire the best talent industry has to offer. The Government needs more nimble and effective approaches to keep technologies and workforce skills current and to ensure that the Federal workforce can meet future needs.

The FY 2020 President’s Budget outlines a vision for change that would streamline the hiring and dismissal processes, modernize human resources technology, better utilize data to inform workforce management, rebalance labor-management relations, align Federal workforce management authorities with private sector best practices, and reduce unnecessary red tape to bring the Federal workforce into the 21st Century.

In addition to efforts to revamp hiring processes, OMB also looks to leverage the dedicated workforce already employed within Federal agencies. It also supports the Modernize IT to Increase Productivity and Security (IT Modernization) Cross Agency Priority (CAP) Goal of the President’s Management Agenda (PMA)2, Federal laws that enable agency technology planning, oversight, funding, and accountability practices, and OMB guidance to agencies on the strategic use of IT to enable mission outcomes. It also supports the modernization of antiquated and often unsecured legacy systems; agency migration to secure, cost-effective commercial cloud solutions and shared services; the recruitment, retention, and reskilling of the Federal technology and cybersecurity workforce to ensure higher value service delivery; and the reduction of cybersecurity risk across the Federal enterprise. These investments will, in alignment with the PMA, focus on addressing root cause structural issues, promoting stronger collaboration and coordination among Federal agencies, and addressing capability challenges that have impeded the Government’s technology vision. This analysis excludes information on classified IT investments by the Department of Defense.

— Source: The White House, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
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