Air Force Research Lab:
Small Business Technology Transfer

Air Force ROTC:
Tennessee State University

May 2020
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In 2011, Earl A. Pace, Jr. was inducted into the IT Hall of Fame as an innovator for co-founding BDPA, formerly known as Black Data Processing Associates. BDPA was founded in Philadelphia in 1975.
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.

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STTR | Small Business Technology Transfer

DAYTON, OH — The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program was established by Congress in 1982 to fund research and development (R&D) by small businesses of 500 or fewer employees. Eleven federal agencies participate in the program, including the Department of Defense (DoD).

The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program was established in 1992 to fund cooperative R&D projects with small businesses and non-profit U.S. research institutions, such as colleges or universities. Five federal agencies participate, including DoD. Both programs focus on projects and services with the potential to develop into products, solutions, or services for both military and commercial sectors.

Small businesses and new startups can respond to Air Force Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs), three times a year. These topics address critical needs identified by U.S. warfighters. Small business proposals are reviewed and awarded SBIR/STTR contracts based on their likelihood to fulfill the identified need.

With the initiation of open innovation topics, through work with AFWERX, Air Force SBIR contracts are being issued with unprecedented expediency. Small businesses that have been awarded a Phase I open innovation topic contract also are being invited to present their solutions for a Phase II contract at Air Force Pitch Day events, where contracts are awarded on the spot. Learn more by visiting: https://www.afsbirsttr.af.mil/.
05.04.20—Yesterday (Sunday), the Small Business Administration announced that it had processed over 3.8 million small business Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans totaling more than $500 billion since the launch of the program on April 3. Since the start of the second round of PPP loans on April 27, SBA has processed 2.2 million loans, totaling $175 billion. Congress has appropriated $659 billion for the program to date. Last Tuesday, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pledged a full audit of PPP loans that are worth more than $2 million and said borrowers will face criminal liability if they misled the government. Entities as varied as the Los Angeles Lakers (which took a $4.6 million loan), Harvard University ($9 million loan), Shake Shack Restaurants ($10 million loan), and the 100-property Ashford Hotels and Resorts ($69 million loan) have announced they would return their loans.

05.11.20—The Senate is in session this week. The House could return this week, but that will depend on when the Democratic Leadership introduces its next coronavirus relief bill. According to The Washington Post, the next bill – which could be voted on by the House this week – may contain up to $2 trillion worth of additional direct payments to individuals, aid for states and local governments, more testing money, food stamp money, money for hospitals, an extension of unemployment insurance, and a bailout for the Postal Service. House Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) sent a letter yesterday to all House Democrats discussing the need for a new bill. The Senate GOP leadership continues to talk about payroll tax cuts and a liability waiver for U.S. businesses.

WASHINGTON — In May 2015, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) launched CBC TECH 2020 to bring together the best minds in the tech, non-profit, education and public sectors to chart a path forward to increase African American inclusion at all levels of the technology industry. The lack of African American representation in tech means that many of our best and brightest – the problem solvers, critical thinkers, and those that challenge conventional thinking – are not included, and America’s global competitiveness suffers as a result.

As a part of the CBC TECH 2020 five-year plan, members of the CBC Diversity Task force held several meetings with Industry’s most influential tech executives in an effort to encourage them to implement diversity plans that place more African Americans directly into their tech pipelines.

The CBC understands that each company or organization requires a unique approach to diversity and inclusion. Toward this end, CBC continued working with companies and organizations to adopt diversity inclusion plans or African American inclusion plans that would outline specific, measurable steps the company would take to increase recruitment and retention of African Americans within their respective industry verticals.

CBC TECH 2020 reports from participating mission partners are expected shortly after year’s end. National BDPA and local BDPA Chapters have supported CBC’s inclusion plan by accomplishing the following since fiscal year 2015 (FY15).

Prior to the conclusion of this plan, National BDPA is working with Industry to establish and formalize partnerships with Silicon Valley technology firms to facilitate a pipeline of internships, as well as entry-level and experienced-hire talent. These partnerships may include any or all of the following: financial commitment, in-kind donations, recruitment opportunities, scholarships, internships, strategic and executive support National BDPA’s plan with CBC is available on the association’s CBC TECH 2020 landing page: https://www.bdpa.org/page/CBCTech2020.

During our next decade, trade associations and community tech organizations such as BDPA will continue their work with Industry, Academia, Congress, General Assembly, and City Councils to address and properly fund technical workforce development, cybersecurity, anti-trust, ethics, intellectual property, and data privacy initiatives.
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Air Force ROTC: Developing Citizens of Character Dedicated to Service at TSU

NASHVILLE, TN — Air Force ROTC Detachment 790 is located in Nashville, Tennessee at historic Tennessee State University. The State of Tennessee Historical Commission established a historical marker at Tennessee State University to document the roots of Reserve Officer Training at the university. Since its founding in 1919, the unit has evolved into a diversity rich organization whose members are dedicated to being military officers. In February of 1951, the United States Air Force established a Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps detachment at the university under the instruction of two of the first Tuskegee Airman, Colonel Howard Baugh and Lt Col Hannibal Cox. The purpose of the program was to recruit and train Air Force officers, and expand the community of black aviators.

In January 1993, the Air Force Detachment moved its operations from the Hale Field House to the north end of the Floyd Payne Campus center. A predominant feature in front of the entrance to the AFROTC unit is the USAF T-38 Talon static display. This fighter aircraft has the name of the highest ranking officer to graduate from the detachment, General Lloyd W. “Fig” Newton, emblazoned below the cockpit. He began his career in the T-38 and flew over 4,000 hours in the F-4 PHANTOM.

Most notably, General Newton was the first African-American selected to fly in the world-famous United States Air Force Thunderbirds. He achieved the rank of four-star general and commanded the USAF Air Education Training Command before his retirement in 2000.

— Source: TSU AFROTC
Photos: (Top) TSU AFROTC staff; (inset and bottom) USAF

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