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**Meet the Buyers event continues to build connections for Nebraska small business**

OMAHA—On November 3, the Nebraska Business Development Center Procurement Technical Assistance Center (NBDC PTAC) hosted over 70 businesses for the third annual *Government Contracting Conference: Meet the Buyer* at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The conference provided an opportunity for businesses to connect to purchasing agents from local, state and federal agencies, as well as prime contractors. Informational sessions addressed how to construct a winning proposal, successful contract management and cybersecurity requirements.

Stressing the importance of small business to the Nebraska economy, addresses by U.S. Representative Don Bacon, Nebraska second congressional district, and Courtney Dentlinger, director, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, kicked off the event. Theodore Bujewski, associate director and cybersecurity lead, Department of Defense Office of Small Business Programs, gave the keynote address.

Buyers who networked with business owners during the event represented the Air Force, Ellsworth Air Force Base, Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha Public Schools, City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, GSA, National Park Service, U.S. Marine Corps, City of Omaha, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nebraska Department of Transportation, Nebraska Purchasing Bureau and the Departments of Veteran Affairs, Homeland Security, and Housing and Urban Development.

Prime contractor CH2M Hill in partnership with the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) helped sponsor the event.

“The goal of this conference is to provide needed “how-to” information on government contracting with the added benefit of highly productive networking to generate actual leads," says Veronica Doga, event administrator. Doga, director of the NBDC PTAC, has organized three conferences beginning in 2015.

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