Bringing Innovation to Government Agencies Webinar

Reforms in DoD acquisition practice combined with novel ways of approaching innovation created the backdrop for the webinar "Bringing Innovation to Government Agencies." A MITRE panel highlighted key acquisition changes and resources as part of TechMGM's Series on Leveraging Data for Economic Development, an initiative of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce. (https://www.montgomerychamber.com/) The 5-part series is being curated and hosted by Charisse Stokes, the Executive Director of TechMGM. Acquisition reforms target long lead times and barriers to industry solutions with streamlined procedures. MITRE's Christina Rhylander led conversation among the panelists on the latest developments in statutes, policies, and frameworks, with a concentration on rapid prototyping for fielding solutions described in the National Defense Authorization Acts of FY16 and FY20. MITRE's Debra Zides explored how pathways put capability into the hands of warfighters through scaling existing solutions and fielding prototypes as part of the DoD's New Adaptive Acquisition Framework. With the speed of relevance as a driver, the pathways institutionalize flexibility in matching acquisition streams to needs of warfighters. MITRE's Dan Ward explored related contracting strategies that extend to project execution, relating case studies that provide examples of making good matches between need, acquisition, and contracting strategies.

With support from the reforms, newly empowered professionals in government, industry, and academia seek tools to foster innovation and experimentation in their solutions from challenge to implementation. The panelists walked through the resources available from MITRE's publically available suite of enablers. The suite includes means for fostering start-up and sponsor collaboration, guiding teams through creative processes, and supporting agile acquisition with templates and recommendations.   MITRE's Bridging Innovation organization is designed to leverage MITRE's unique position of being able to scout out startups and match them with sponsors needs (https://bridge.mitre.org/) . The Innovation Tool Kit is a collection of dowloadable tools and frameworks for guiding practitioners in drawing out creativity for those eager to break out from traditional approaches with lengthy requirements documents and stifling review (https://itk.mitre.org/) . Acquisition in the Digital Age (AiDA, https://aida.mitre.org/) is a comprehensive navigation aid for acquisition policy and best practice including contributing disciplines such as cost estimating and systems engineering.

The webinar recording is available at https://youtu.be/YSMYX_I1yCg .

Event Info:

Name: Innovation 101: Bringing Innovation to Government Agencies Webinar: Presented by Debbie Zides, Christina Rhylander, and Dan Ward, MITRE

Date: June 3, 2020

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM CDT

Event Description:

This presentation will provide an overview of how the Department of Defense incorporates innovation into acquisition activities, including highlights of recent changes to laws and policies making it easier to engage with non-traditional vendors, high level overview of contracting, and examples of activities and organizations currently engaged with the non-traditional vendors to field capability at the speed of relevance.