

2021 Big A Suspension and Debarment Panel Meet Your S&D Bureau POCs

Presented by James Latoff and Greg Coss

Introduction

- Mr. Barry E. Berkowitz, Senior Procurement Executive, Director of Acquisition Management, and Suspension & Debarment Official
- Greg Coss, Suspension & Debarment Coordinator with the Suspension & Debarment Office, and Grants & Cooperative Agreements Specialist with the Financial Assistance Policy and Oversight Division
- James Latoff, Contractor Responsibility Coordinator with the Suspension & Debarment Office, and Attorney with the Contract Law Division, Office of the General Counsel
- Agent Christian Patton, Assistant Special Agent in Charge with the Office of Inspector General, and OIG S&D Liaison

Suspension and Debarment Official (SDO)

- Barry Berkowitz is the Department of Commerce SDO
- The Secretary of Commerce designated Barry as the SDO
- The SDO protects the Department from fraud, waste, and abuse by ensuring that the government only conduct business with presently responsible individuals and entities.
- The SDO reviews recommendations made by the Suspension & Debarment Office, makes present responsibility determinations regarding the recommended entities and individuals, and determines whether or not to take administrative actions toward the entities or individuals.
- As SDO, Barry wants to see successful grants and contracts
- S&D is not a punishment, but rather a means to ensure that any wrongdoing during the course of a contract or financial assistance, whether intentional or not, is discovered and corrected, to protect our mission and tax dollars and ensure the contractor's or financial assistance recipient's long-term success with the federal government

What is Suspension and Debarment?

- S&Ds are administrative remedies used to protect the federal government from doing business with non-responsible contractors and financial aid recipients and fight waste, fraud, and abuse
- Suspensions, Proposals for Debarment, and Debarments are the most widely known tools as these actions are visible to the public via SAM (formerly EPLS)
- S&D “actions” provide a “timeout” to the entity or individual and allow them to get themselves sorted

S&D Alternatives?

- Show Cause Letters and Requests for Information - not visible to the public
- The SDO may also decide to enter into an Administrative Agreement
- These agreements document remedial measures taken to prevent reoccurrence and provide the entity or individual with a path to become responsible
- Declinations inform the contractor or financial assistance recipient under review that they are presently responsible and can pursue new business with the Government

What is the Suspension & Debarment process?

- Cases are referred to the SDO from many sources, including Office of Inspector General, voluntary & mandatory disclosures, and employees
- SDO makes a determination based on the referral
- When suspended or proposed for debarment, contractors or financial aid recipients may submit presentation of matters in opposition demonstrating present responsibility
- If requested, SDO may meet with contractor or financial aid recipient
- If additional facts are presented, SDO makes a final decision which is provided to the contractor or financial aid recipient
- Remedy is implemented: debarment, administrative agreement, declination, etc.

How We Can Best Ensure Success in the Fight Against Waste, Fraud, and Abuse?

- Create a Bureau S&D Points of Contact Program with POCs at each of the Bureaus
- Engage in monthly meetings between the Suspension & Debarment Office and the POCs
- The meetings will serve the purpose of keeping the Bureau POCs up-to-date on current policies, procedures, trends, current cases, and provide opportunity for the POCs to voice questions or concerns about the current administration of contracts or financial assistance
- KEY TO SUCCESS: DOC community engages with the S&D Bureau POCs

Meet the DOC 2021 S&D Bureau POCs!

NOAA – Rebecca Pedroza

- E-mail: Rebecca.Pedroza@noaa.gov
- Phone: (816) 823-1511
- NOAA Acquisition and Grants Office
- Policy & Oversight Division
- Kansas City, Missouri

NIST – Todd Hill

- E-mail: Todd.hill@nist.gov
- Phone: 240-490-1044 (cell)
- Phone: 240-490-5684 (landline)
- Or via MS Teams
- Works virtually full-time, even after the pandemic
- At NIST since 2005 and worked as a Contracting Officer, Team Lead, Procurement Analyst, and Deputy Director
- Currently the acting Senior Bureau Procurement Official (SBPO)
- Lives in Jefferson, MD
- Married with two adult children, 2-dogs and 5-cats

Census – Brighid Boykin

- E-mail: brighid.boykin@census.gov
- Phone: 301-763-7494
- Procurement Analyst, Acquisition Policy Oversight and Workforce (APOW)
- Office of the Chief Financial Officer/Acquisition Division
- Employed with Census March 15, 2020
- Excited to be part of the S&D Bureau POC Team!

USPTO – Lisa Wade

- E-mail: lisa.wade@uspto.gov
- Phone: 571.272.6308
- Management and Program Analyst
- Policy, Programs and Compliance Division
- Office of Procurement

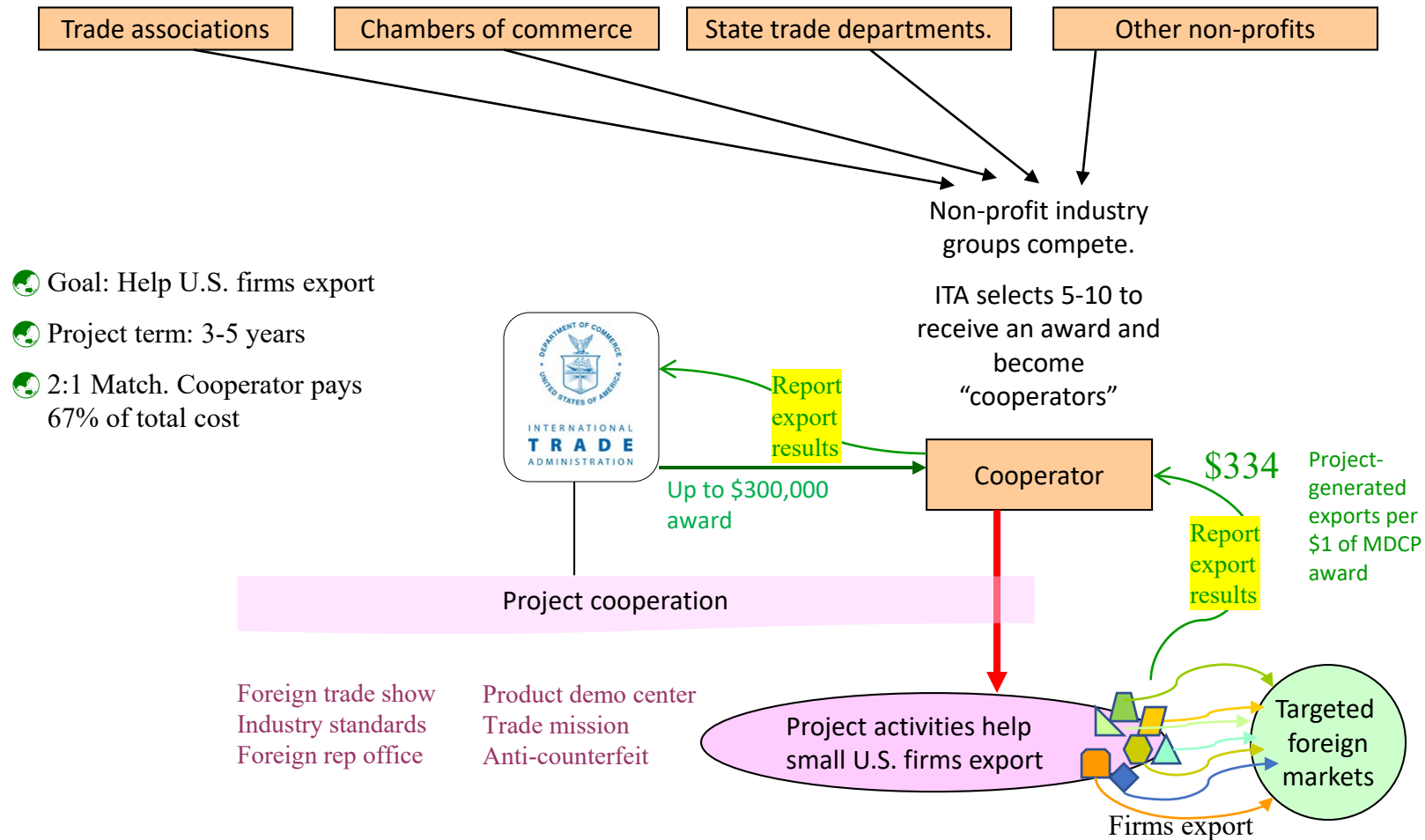
MBDA – Nakita Chambers

- E-mail: Nchambers@mbda.gov
- Phone: 202-482-0065 (work)
- 202-384-8854 (mobile)
- Program Manager, Minority Business Development Agency

ITA – Brad Hess

- Email: brad.hess@trade.gov
- I sit in the organization from the bureau level down:
 - [International Trade Administration](#) (ITA)
 - [Industry & Analysis](#) (I&A business unit)
 - Office of the Assistant Secretary (DAS level)
 - Office of Industry Engagement
- First ITA career ran from 1987 to 1991 in what is now known as Enforcement & Compliance
- Second ITA Career began in 1998 managing ITA's financial assistance programs
- Since 2015, MDCP has been the only financial assistance program that ITA has actively managed We have 13 active MDCP multiyear projects and will probably add another seven by September

Market Development Cooperator Program (trade.gov/MDCP)



MDCP project example: specialty auto equipment to Gulf States

Project teams

Thirteen MDCP projects currently engage 147 ITA staff worldwide. Here are two examples.

Trade events increase exports by \$160 million

ITA has helped over 100 member firms of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) to export \$160 million of U.S. products to the United Arab Emirates and other key markets.



MDCP project example: building products to China

Helping China builders identify quality U.S. building products

U.S. structural lumber is recognized in China as a premium building material. Some Chinese mills counterfeit grading markings on products that do not comply with industry standards. Evergreen Building Products Association (EBPA) is developing a phone app to help builders in China to distinguish true markings that go on genuine U.S. product.



Chinese sawmill working shown applying a counterfeit grading mark to structural lumber. (photo: EBPA)

NTIA - Jeff Link

- E-mail: jlink@ntia.gov
- Phone: 202-482-6328
- With Commerce and NTIA for 10 years, the bulk of which spent supporting NTIA's acquisition efforts from our Office of Policy Coordination and Management (OPCM)

EDA – Bill Bethel

- E-mail: wbethel@eda.gov
- Phone; 202-306-2945
- Manager
- Operations, Policy & Compliance
- Office of Financial & Management Services (OFMS)
- Economic Development Administration
- Began tenure with EDA/DOC on July 7, 2016

ES-A – Steven McClellan

- E-mail: Smcclellan@doc.gov
- With Enterprise Services for about one year now
- Does not have a desk, he came onboard during the pandemic
- New to S&D but excited to help out anyway I can

Complete List of POCs and Email Addresses

- NIST – Todd Hill (todd.hill@nist.gov)
- Census – Brighid Boykin (brighid.boykin@census.gov)
- PTO – Lisa Wade (lisa.wade@uspto.gov)
- NOAA – Rebecca Pedroza (rebecca.pedroza@noaa.gov)
- *MBDA – Nakita Chambers (nchambers@mbda.gov)
- *ITA – Brad Hess (brad.hess@trade.gov)
- *NTIA – Jeff Link (jlink@ntia.gov)
- EDA – William Bethel (wbethel@eda.gov)
- ES-A – Steven McClellan (smcclellan@doc.gov)
- OGC – James Latoff (jlatoff@doc.gov), *Sarah Schwartz (sschwartz@doc.gov)
- OAM – Greg Coss (gcoss1@doc.gov) – general questions
- OIG Hotline – 1-800-424-5197 or Hotline@oig.doc.gov

* Grants Only

Office of Suspension and Debarment Contact Information

- E-mail: suspenddebar@doc.gov
- Phone: (202) 482-5286
- Greg Coss (gcoss1@doc.gov) 202-482-3134
- James Latoff (jlatoff@doc.gov) 202-322-4112
- Website: <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/suspension-and-debarment>
- MAX Website: <https://community.max.gov/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=DOC&title=Suspension+and+Debarment+Office+of+Acquisiton+Management>

Questions?



Summary: Thank You, and Goodbye

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW.....PHONE A
FRIEND!