

Mentor Protégé Program

Helping Small Business Work Successfully with the Federal Government

What Is the Program?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Mentor Protégé Program is designed to help small businesses obtain mentoring from DOE prime contractors. The program is meant to foster long-term business relationships between small businesses and DOE prime contractors while increasing the overall number of small business entities that receive DOE contract and subcontract awards.

The program is open to all small businesses, including:

- Small disadvantaged businesses
- Small Business Administration-certified 8(a) small businesses
- HUBZone
- Woman-owned
- Veteran-owned
- Service-disabled veteran-owned.



Who Can Participate?

Small businesses interested in participating in the Mentor Protégé Program must:

- Be eligible for receipt of government contracts
- Have been in business for at least two years prior to applying for enrollment in the program
- Be able to certify as a small business according to the standard industrial code for the service or supplies to be provided
- Not have an existing DOE Mentor Protégé Program agreement in place.

How Long Does the Program Last?

When a small business applies for and is approved to participate in the Mentor Protégé Program, it will sign a two-year commitment. Within this time frame, the small business is eligible to receive sole-source subcontracts.

Mentor Protégé Program Graduate: Group14 Engineering

Group14 Engineering—one of the more recent Mentor Protégé Program small businesses to graduate and a Fiscal Year 2013 DOE Small Business Award winner—first started working with NREL to monitor the energy performance of a photovoltaic-thermal hybrid system. Soon, however, Group14's work expanded to become an integral part of the NREL-led project to develop DOE's OpenStudio software.

Through Group14's work as an energy efficiency consulting firm, it has been able to help launch OpenStudio with its clients while continuing its collaboration with NREL to further develop the tool's capabilities and reach with large companies such as Xcel Energy.

As a direct result of its work with NREL, Group14 has contracted with a private company to develop customized code for OpenStudio.

“We've taken this small business, and through working with NREL and by using our technology, they are now using it to help Xcel Energy, and are taking on contracts with other companies that are using and want to further expand OpenStudio.”

— Larry Brackney,
NREL Group14 Technical Monitor

“Group14 has been a strong contributor to helping Xcel Energy make buildings better through the New Construction program.”

— Jennifer Elling, Xcel Energy

“NREL provided us with an energy analysis tool that we'll use to promote our energy analysis services, and by using the tool, we're able to give NREL the feedback it needs on ways to enhance this leading-edge technology, which will go even further in increasing the energy efficiency of buildings.”

— Sue Reilly, President, Group14

Get Involved

For more information on working with NREL through the Mentor Protégé Program, contact:

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Get more information on
DOE's Mentor Protégé Program:
www.energy.gov/diversity/services/supporting-small-businesses/mentor-prot-g-program

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

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